

France '98 European Qualifiers schedule

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIA

AMERICAN AND BRITISH Soccer

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WEEKLY

\$2.50

Spink & Co. line up Japan

JOE MULLEN retires after 330 games



ERICSSON CUP - ROUND 18

TABLE

TOTAL

	Pts	P	W	D	L	F	A
Marconi Fairfield	37	18	11	4	3	33	18
UTS Olympic	35	18	10	5	3	34	19
Brisbane Strikers	32	18	10	2	6	32	20
Sydney United	31	18	8	7	3	24	15
Melbourne Knights	29	18	8	5	5	18	12
West Adelaide	28	18	8	4	6	25	22
Morwell Falcons	24	18	7	3	8	23	30
South Melbourne	23	18	7	2	9	28	31
Adelaide City	22	18	6	4	8	27	27
Canberra Cosmos	20	18	5	5	8	27	29
Newcastle Breakers	10	18	2	4	12	15	36
Wollongong City	10	18	3	1	14	13	40

HOME

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Marconi Fairfield	10	6	3	1	19	11
UTS Olympic	10	7	3	0	20	6
Brisbane Strikers	9	7	1	1	27	6
Sydney United	8	5	1	2	14	5
Melbourne Knights	9	6	1	2	11	4
West Adelaide	9	6	1	2	14	8
Morwell Falcons	8	4	0	4	12	14
South Melbourne	9	5	2	2	20	11
Adelaide City	9	3	3	3	15	10
Canberra Cosmos	9	3	4	2	17	12
Newcastle Breakers	9	1	4	4	9	13
Wollongong City	9	2	0	7	6	15

AWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Marconi Fairfield	8	5	1	2	14	7
UTS Olympic	8	3	2	3	14	13
Brisbane Strikers	9	3	1	5	5	14
Sydney United	10	3	6	1	10	10
Melbourne Knights	9	2	4	3	7	8
West Adelaide	9	2	3	4	11	14
Morwell Falcons	10	3	3	4	11	16
South Melbourne	9	2	0	7	8	20
Adelaide City	9	3	1	5	12	17
Canberra Cosmos	9	2	1	6	10	17
Newcastle Breakers	9	1	0	8	6	23
Wollongong City	9	1	1	7	7	25

W WIN 3 Points - D DRAW 1 Points - L LOSS 0

RESULTS

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS	1
(Stewart 80)	
MORWELL FALCONS	2
(Hickman 20 og, Villani 35)	
BRISBANE STRIKERS	7
(Ditton 18, Farina 34, 50, 52, Brown 46, 48, Polak 76)	
ADELAIDE CITY	1
(Hassell 89)	
MARCONI-FAIRFIELD	3
(Awaritefe 44, Harper 58, 64pen)	
WOLLONGONG CITY	1
(Jermen 40)	

SOUTH MELBOURNE	2
(Coveny 29, Trimboli 61)	
UTS OLYMPIC	1
(Trajanovski 82)	
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	0
SYDNEY UNITED	0
WEST ADELAIDE	2
(Tsekinis 46, Ndongo-Keller 85)	
CANBERRA COSMOS	1
(Castro 37)	

CROWDS

SEASON BEST: 13,956 - South Melbourne v West Adelaide - Round 9
 ROUND 18 BEST: 10,127 South Melbourne v UTS Olympic. TOTAL ROUND 18: 31,837
 SEASON TOTAL: 485,004. AVERAGE PER MATCH: 4,490.

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FANS CLUB BY CLUB

CLUB	TOTAL	MATCHES	AVERAGE
Souths	66698	9	7410
UTS Olympic	54433	10	5443
Ad City	45565	9	5062
Brisbane	42264	9	4696
Melb Knights	39599	9	4399
Marconi	43291	10	4329
Newcastle	37804	9	4200
Syd Utd	32432	8	4054
West Ad	34999	9	3888
Canberra	31748	9	3527
Morwell	26917	8	3364
Wollongong	29254	9	3250

- EACH CLUB'S BEST CROWD -

Souths	13956 v West Ad	R9
UTS Olympic	11145 v Marconi	R9
Ad City	9601 v West Ad	R17
West Ad	8284 v Ad City	R6
Marconi	8196 v Syd Utd	R10
Brisbane	7851 v Melb Knights	R16
Newcastle	6837 v UTS Olympic	R1
Melb Knights	6290 v Souths	R1
Canberra	5490 v Syd Utd	R2
Wollongong	5069 v UTS Olympic	R17
Syd Utd	4984 v Canberra	R13
Morwell	4183 v Souths	R2

LEADING GOALSCORERS

13	Damien Mori	(Adelaide City)
12	Kris Trajanovski	(UTS Olympic)
12	Frank Farina	(Brisbane Strikers)
10	Andrew Harper	(Marconi Fairfield)
9	Paul Wade	(Canberra Cosmos)
7	Rodney Brown	(Brisbane Strikers)
7	Ivan Kelic	(South Melbourne)
7	Paul Trimboli	(South Melbourne)
7	Jim Tsekinis	(West Adelaide)
6	Francis Awaritefe	(Marconi Fairfield)

AUSTRALIA V JAPAN

Youth and experience in Socceroos team

Australia coach Eddie Thomson will give some of the brightest young talent and fringe international players a chance to press their World Cup claims when the Socceroos play games against Japan and Sweden this month.

Adelaide City midfielder Goran Lozanovski earned promotion to the senior squad, along with fellow Olyroos Frank Juric, Kevin Muscat and Joe Spiteri.

The 18 player selection contains well experienced internationals as well as the new arrivals.

But Thomson said they all were part of his plans and could enhance their longer-term prospects of representing Australia in its qualifying campaign for the 1998 World Cup finals in France.

"These games are a great opportunity for these guys," said Thomson.

"Since we last played Japan, we have lost the likes of Kalac, Viduka, Corica, Mendez and Horvat to overseas clubs so we've needed to find replacements."

Thomson aims to field balanced teams of youth and experience in the games against Sweden, which is ranked 12th in FIFA's latest world rankings, and Japan (30).

Australia is ranked 54 but won't have any overseas-based players coming back for these matches.

"I think these are good matches for this stage of our preparation," said Thomson.

"I know that Sweden will be bringing out seven players that were in their

AUSTRALIAN SQUAD			
	NAME	CLUB	CAPS
1	FRANK JURIC	Melbourne Knights	1
2	JASON POLAK	Brisbane Strikers	21
3	ALEX TOBIN	Adelaide City	36
4	MILAN IVANOVIC	Adelaide City	52
5	TONY POPOVIC	Sydney United	8
6	PAUL WADE	Canberra Cosmos	77
7	DAMIAN MORI	Adelaide City	17
8	MILAN BLAGOJEVIC	UTS Olympic	9
9	WARREN SPINK	Morwell Falcons	22
10	KEVIN MUSCAT	South Melbourne	2
11	JOE SPITERI	Melbourne Knights	3
12	JOHN MARKOVSKI	Morwell Falcons	10
13	ROBERT HOOKER	West Adelaide	3
14	DOMINIC LONGO	Marconi Fairfield	2
15	PAUL TRIMBOLI	South Melbourne	13
16	GORAN LOZANOVSKI	Adelaide City	-
17	MATTHEW BINGLEY	Marconi Fairfield	3
18	JASON PETKOVIC	Adelaide City	1

World Cup squad."

Thomson was delighted to include Lozanovski and said the midfielder had been an outstanding performer for the Olyroo team which won the Oceania Olympic qualifying tournament.

"He deserves his chance," said Thomson.

"He took every opportunity during the Oceania qualifiers and is a great crosser of the ball."

The Socceroos take on Japan in Wollongong on Friday February 10, in Melbourne on Tuesday February 14.

Sweden are in Brisbane on Sunday February 25 and four days later in Sydney on the 28th.



Frank Juric

NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL LEAGUE



Wellington United remains unbeaten at the top of New Zealand's national league after a 3-2 away win against Mt Maunganui.

Other results: Miramar 3, Waikato 2, Waitakere 2, Central 1, Nelson 1, North Shore 0, Napier 4, Woolston 0.

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Confrontation leads to head clash

BY JUSTIN BRASIER
OF AAP

A South Melbourne official has been reported following a heated clash when he allegedly head-butted UTS Olympic coach David Ratcliffe after the National League match against South Melbourne on Sunday.

The incident occurred in the players' tunnel minutes after South Melbourne beat UTS Olympic 2-1 at the Lakeside Stadium when Ratcliffe confronted fourth official John Fraser.

Ratcliffe was unhappy when referee Gerry Connolly failed to give a penalty for what he believed was a trip against his striker Kimon Taliadoros in the 84th minute.

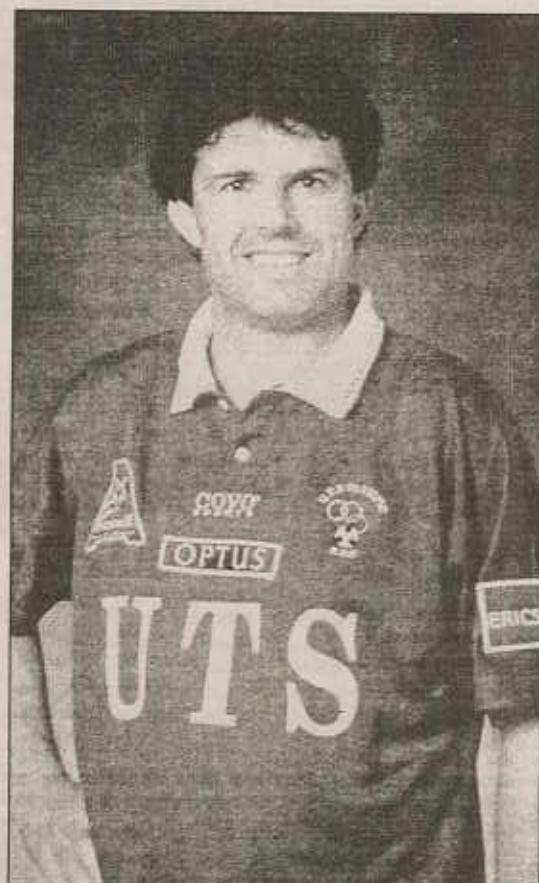
"I was disappointed and I asked about the penalty, maybe I didn't ask in the right way," Ratcliffe said afterwards.

"Then the other guy got involved and called me an a... and then head-butted me."

"If you go looking for this character I bet he's got a split head."

The official, who acts as a club liaison officer, had blood on his forehead after the game. He said he was only trying to protect Fraser.

"He complained to the referee so I told him to go away and he came at me with a clash," said



David Ratcliffe: Questioned referee's decision after game.

the official.

"Unfortunately I caught him in the teeth and I have a bloodied head."

Ratcliffe agreed he exchanged heated words with the fourth official but said the

actions of the South Melbourne official were uncalled for.

Ratcliffe was escorted from the stadium to the team bus by heavy security amid boos from South Melbourne fans.

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OLYMPIC GAMES QUALIFIERS

ROUND 9**AUSTRALIA 5****FIJI 0**

Australia had a workman-like 5-0 win against Fiji.

Local hero Ross Aloisi gave Australia the start it wanted when he latched onto a deflected throw-in and sent a header flashing into the net with only three minutes played.

The small crowd at Hindmarsh Stadium had to wait until the 57th minute for striker Mark Viduka to advance the scoreline.

Midfielder Göran Lozanovski hit a low cross, which fell nicely for Viduka.

Fiji nipped at the heels of Australia all night and midfielder Danny Tiatto had his shins autographed with the studs of a procession of Fiji players.

But the live-wire Olyroo had the last laugh when he made it 3-0 by shirking off some heavy challenges and planting a dipping shot into the net with 69 minutes gone.

Lozanovski gave the home town crowd something to shout about when he rammed a daisy cutter through a packed Fiji rearguard and inside the post to make it 4-0.

Tiatto was again in action in the dying minutes when he headed to Norm Tome and the substitute nodded the ball

into the net.

Esala Masi gave Fiji some hope early in the game when he hit a swirling free kick that crashed into the side netting.

AUSTRALIA: Juric, Muscat, Babic, Moore, Tsekenis (Alagich 79), Spiteri, Viduka, Mendez Tome (46), Tiatto, Lozanovski, Aloisi (Cassery 81) FIJI: Baledrokadroka, Bolini, Leka, E Masi, Naquruvati, M Masi, Work (Kilawaka), Nabenu, Baleinuku, Gata, Rauge SCORERS: Australia: Aloisi (4), Viduka (59), Tiatto (70), Lozanovski (80), Tome (92) YELLOW CARDS: Australia: Aloisi (49), Spiteri (54)

NZ 6**SOLOMON ISLANDS 0**

New Zealand used its aerial power and physical superiority to thrash the Solomon Islands 6-0.

The Kiwis started brightly and Mark Burton dictated how the game would go when he headed an inswinging cross over the line with only 90 seconds on the clock.

John Solodia did his best to block everything the New Zealanders hit at him, but it was only a matter of time before the goalkeeper was beaten again.

Defender Jonathon Perry made a dazzling run down the right wing and slipped the

FINAL TABLE							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia	8	6	-	2	48	4	18
New Zealand	8	6	-	2	28	9	18
Fiji	8	3	1	4	12	21	10
Solomon Islands	8	2	2	4	6	22	8
Vanuatu	8	1	1	6	5	43	4

(Australia lost three points when its win over Solomon Islands was reversed as a penalty for using an unlisted substitute.)

ball to Simon Elliott who made it 2-0 with a close range effort after 32 minutes.

Mark Foy then showed a touch of class. Turning his marker he wrong-footed the Solomon backline and picked his spot to advance the ledger to 3-0.

Substitute Sean Fallon took it to four with almost his first touch of the ball.

The striker could not believe his luck when the ball dropped at his feet and he tapped it home before the Islanders could even think about challenging him.

Foy headed New Zealand into a 5-0 lead five minutes before the break.

Simon Elliott took his tally for the game to two and his side into a 6-0 lead after 76 minutes with a thundering shot after a sweet pass from Aaran Lines.

NEW ZEALAND: Paston, Perry, Harlock (Jones 75),

Hay, Bunce, Vicelicy, Lines, Wilkinson (Seales 59), Foy, Elliot, Burton (Fallon 35)

SOLOMON ISLANDS: Soladua, Omokirio, Molea, Wabo (Beuka 31), Toata, Suri (Lui 46), Seni, boby, Farodo (Wasi 71), Sasau, Rukumana

SCORES: NZ: Burton (2), Elliott (38, 78), Foy (39, 41), Fallon (40)

YELLOW CARDS: NZ: Elliott (55). SI: Wabo (73)

ROUND 10**NZ 1****AUSTRALIA 0**

New Zealand's Under 23 side celebrated well into the morning after securing an upset 1-0 victory over Oceania champion Australia.

It was sweet revenge for the 5-0 thrashing the Olyroos had dished out to their traditional rivals earlier in

the series.

New Zealand pulled level on points with the Olyroos but it was the Australians who advanced to the next round because of a vastly superior goal difference.

All Whites coach Bobby Clark said it was an especially satisfying win considering the tight budget he was operating on and the limited preparation his young players had received.

"For the past four or five weeks we've worked very hard and have put together something on a shoestring.

"We came here for the experience and we've grown as the tournament went on and this is the trouble with New Zealand - usually at the end of the tournament we've made ourselves into a team," he said.

Simon Elliott scored the only goal of the game in the 55th minute with a stunning

long range strike.

Although Thomson conceded that New Zealand had played the best soccer on the night he said if the Olyroos had needed a win he would have played a stronger line-up and secured a result.

"One team wanted to win and one team was hoping to win, they competed hard and fought hard and were typical Kiwis and deserved the win," he said.

NZ: Paston, Perry, Harlock, Hay, Bunce, Vicelicy, Lines, Wilkinson (Seales 65), Foy (Riddle 89), Fallon, Elliott

AUSTRALIA: Bolton, Muscat,

Moore, Alagich, Casserly,

Lozanovski (Babic 46),

Mendez, Tiatto (Bilokapic 46),

Tome, Spiteri, Milicic (Viduka 46)

SCORER: NZ: Elliott (55)

YELLOW CARDS:

AUSTRALIA: Moore (77).

NZ: Harlock (71), Vicelicy (85)

VANUATU 1**FIJI 0**

Soccer minnow Vanuatu tasted glory with an upset 1-0 win over Fiji.

Substitute Martin Malessas was its hero, scoring with a diving header in the 61st minute to clinch Vanuatu's first win of the five-nation tournament.

Victorious coach Marco Herominly wiped a tear from his eye as he led his players to the dressing room.

"We finished last, but we

did well tonight and I am proud, very proud."

Although swirling winds made conditions difficult for both sides, Fiji set the pace from the start, beating a well worn path to the Vanuatu goal only to be denied repeatedly by goalkeeper Raymond Timothy who was in outstanding form.

After the break, Vanuatu's George Kalo sent Fiji a warning when he headed narrowly past the post before Malessas grabbed the all-important goal with his first touch.

Soon afterwards, Sailas Yatan burst through Fiji's defence but goalkeeper Alfereti Aropio blocked his shot with his feet.

Fiji skipper Esali Mali then decided to take charge, pushed his men forward and in the closing minutes Waisea Nabenu watched in agony as his shot was deflected on to the woodwork.

VANUATU: Timothy, Nicholas, Thompson (Malessas 59), Yatan, Molivaera, Obed, Sailas, Lauru, Mermor (Tommy 78), Kalo, Karl Fiji: Leka (Pillay 85), E Masi, Naquruvati, Rasoki, M Masi, Work, Nabenu, Baleinuku, Kumak, Rauque (Bulewa 51) SCORER: Vanuatu: Malessas (61) YELLOW CARD: Fiji: Rauque (40)

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Most capped player with Sweden on tour

Tommy Svensson, Sweden's national coach, named his squad last week for the four nation tournament in Hong Kong from February 19-23.

The team flies on to Australia for two games against the home country. These games are at Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane on Sunday February 25 with the second on the following Wednesday at the Sydney Football Stadium.

Thomas Ravelli, who played such an outstanding part in Sweden's third placing at USA 94, is now the most capped international player in the world. Australian fans will see him in action on their own turf.

The Swedish squad is:

Goalkeepers: Bengt Andersson (Orgryte), Thomas Ravelli (IFK Gothenburg).

Defenders: Sebastian Henriksson (Orgryte), Andreas Jacobsson (Helsingborg), Christian Karlsson (Malmö FF), Teddy Luci (IFK Gothenburg), Mikael Nilsson (IFK Gothenburg), Roland Nilsson (Helsingborg), Stefan Landberg (IFK Gothenburg).

Midfielders: Niclas Alexandersson (IFK Gothenburg), Anders Andersson (Malmö FF), Jesper Blomqvist (IFK Gothenburg), Magnus Erlingmark (IFK Gothenburg), Haakan Mild (IFK Gothenburg), Magnus Svensson (Halmstad), Peter Wibraan (Helsingborg).

Forwards: Andreas Andersson (IFK Gothenburg), Mattias Jonsson (Helsingborg), Martin Pringle (Helsingborg), Dan Sahlin (Örebro).



Thomas Ravelli:
The veteran goalkeeper is certain to entertain Australian crowds.

Olyroos under-prepared for road to Atlanta

BY PAUL MILLAR
OF AAP

If there was any doubt that Australia had outlived its time in soccer's Oceania group it disappeared in the Olympic qualifiers last week.

Apart from an upset 1-0 loss to New Zealand in the final game of the five nation series, when the Olyroos rested top players because they'd already won the competition, they were untested.

The goal-tally went in the Olyroos' favour 48-4 and when you consider that FIFA overturned a 4-0 win against the Solomon Islands to a 0-2 loss for playing an ineligible player, it's an even more impressive record.

Olyroo coach Eddie Thomson said what everybody in soccer knows after the tournament when he agreed that Australia should not be in the Oceania group.

"I agree, but we cannot get into Asia, there's no point in saying that, we just have to stay where we are, we've got to hang on in Oceania because Asia does not want us at any price," he said.

Thomson said to become a real soccer power Australia

needed tougher international competition and played down the loss to New Zealand saying if the Olyroos needed to win they would have.

He was his usual confident self after the last game but had a nagging doubt that the ease with which Australia swept through the series could leave it ill-prepared for the clash against the runner-up in the CONCACAF section.

The Olyroos will know in May who stands in the way of a ticket to Atlanta, but Thomson will make sure his players know that it will not be the stroll in the park they experienced at Hindmarsh Stadium.

He relishes the thought of playing Canada, but concedes that Mexico could be a big problem as could Costa Rica or Honduras where the crowds will be hostile and the Olyroos are likely to need more preparation to adapt to climate changes.

Australia scored an average of six goals a game in the five nation series, enough to bring a smile to the face of any coach, but



Eddie Thomson: Said his players had been sloppy.

Thomson said his players had been sloppy.

The Olyroos had such commanding leads early in the games that at times they were falling over each other to score and lost concentration.

But the taskmaster said there were some highlights, Melbourne Knights striker Joe Spiteri emerged from the shadow of Croatia Zagreb sharpshooter Mark Viduka, Adelaide City midfielder Goran Lozanovski had a top series while Leeds United-bound Danny Tiatto was stunning.

"Admira Wacker (Austria) midfieler Gabriel Mendez showed glimpses of brilliance, while Glasgow Rangers defender Craig Moore made it all look so easy.

It was easy, that's the problem and that's why

Thomson said his team could do "with a belting" in a warm-up game to bring them back to reality.

The games never attracted the crowds expected probably because Adelaide fans know their soccer and the Olyroos were a class above the mediocre opposition.

There were times during the play-offs when you had to shake your head in disbelief.

Foul throw-ins and passes to the opposition outnumbered shots on target for Australia's rivals.

There were the usual off-field antics in the qualifiers and Fiji coach Billy Singh was at the centre of most of them.

He labelled Australia cheats and accused the Olyroos of bending the rules when they played an illegal substitute.

He also said he would pull his team out of the series unless Australia was penalised, which was madness or an unsettling ploy considering his side was still in with a chance early in the series.

Singh's team lost the final game of the series 1-0 to soccer minnow Vanuatu and while the Vanuatu players celebrated he took it all in his stride and said it did not affect his team's third placing on the ladder which was all that mattered.

He said it was a good, well run tournament but criticised the food on offer.

"Everything was organised well except for the food we ate, the boys were not used to it," he said.

CROWDS TO TOP THE ONE MILLION MARK

Soccer Australia yesterday predicted the crowds for the Ericsson Cup could top one million for the season on the current figures, with the just completed round 18 attendance of over 31,000 people the second highest for the season.

Already 482,679 people have attended 18 rounds of the Ericsson Cup, an increase of over 86,000 on the corresponding rounds last year.

With the competition so close, record

breaking crowds are expected to continue for the remainder of the season and into the finals.

Last season's 26 rounds of soccer resulted in 551,431 spectators attending. A 33 round competition should see soccer reach the magic million for the first time in its history.

Soccer Australia have attributed the bigger gates to the following factors:

■ New 12 team Ericsson Cup format, creating an attractive product and increased interest

■ Increased media profile.

■ Increased TV coverage through the addition of Optus Vision as a soccer broadcaster, enabling networks immediate access to soccer footage.

■ Improved facilities with venues such as Sydney United Sports Ground, Suncorp Stadium, Bruce Stadium and Bob Jane Stadium in Melbourne.

■ The expansion of the competition to the strong soccer centres of Canberra and Newcastle.

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St George Stadium — Barton Park, Rockdale

GAME 2

ST GEORGE SAINTS v JUBILO IWATA
(Australia) (Japan)

February 22, 1996 — 7.00pm

St George Stadium — Barton Park, Rockdale

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Correct facts and grammar essential

Dear Sir,

I am a regular reader of your paper and have long been amused by some of the basic errors committed by some of your correspondents.

Such errors reduce their thoughts to little more than hot air and makes one wonder as to their credibility when it comes to soccer matters.

Two recent examples illustrate my point.

In the January 23 issue of your paper, Anthony Fensom quotes Sir Winston Churchill as having said: "I may not agree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." Tut! Tut! Monsieur Fensom. Churchill said no such thing. It was Voltaire who reputedly said "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."

If I may quote Churchill, in his book, "My Early Life" (1930), he states in chapter 9: "it is a good thing for an uneducated man to read books of quotations." I don't for one minute wish to imply that Anthony Fensom is uneducated.

Churchill was, of course, referring to himself, but it is good advice for all of us when we put pen to paper to ensure that any quotes we use are correctly attributed.

While on the subject of educated men, I would have expected that prolific and educated writer of letters to the editor, Dr Peter Bayliss, (Letters, 23/1/96) to know that "criteria" is plural and "criterion" is singular.

Getting your facts correct and knowing your grammar are essential to good communication.

John Quigley,
New Town. Tas.

How to improve on fantastic



Kimon Taliadoros: Full page colour picture appreciated.

Dear Sir,

We couldn't help but notice that in your December 5 issue, there was a whole page devoted to a colour picture of Kimon Taliadoros, and we thought that was fantastic. But we haven't seen anything like that since.

We were just wondering if you could print a huge colour poster like the one you did, of Sean Babic of Sydney United or one of Leslie Pogliacomi or Ian Pollari of Marconi (yes we realise that Ian is now a Wollongong City player — but he is one of our favourites).

Or maybe a coloured team poster of the Sydney United and Marconi players?

We think that if something like a coloured poster were to be in ABSW every week, your sales would go up incredibly — just a suggestion to maybe improve your already fantastic paper — it's great to see a publication almost totally devoted to Australian soccer!

Nerida & Rebecca Ramaci, Winston Hills. NSW
Nancy Takac, Kemps Creek. NSW
& Natalie Zugec, Doonside. NSW

Letters to the Editor

Have your say on any soccer issue in the world. Preference will be given to short letters. Include daytime phone number for verification.



The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper

EXPENSIVE PANTOMIME

Dear Sir,

I cannot believe that anyone who knows the shape of a soccer ball could have doubted for one moment who was going to win any kind of Oceanian Olympic qualifying tournament.

It was only a question of by how much? Therefore logically, it should have been organised to be as brief and least costly as possible.

Instead we are lumbered with this expensive pantomime which has already gone through the joke stage, has reached embarrassment stage — and has thankfully now ended.

If this were cricket Australia would have declared and won by an innings.

What is the reason for all these teams playing each other twice and who is responsible for it?

Furthermore, how much has this farce cost in dollars and who is going to foot the bill?

These Oceanian 'so-called soccer' squads (you see better players in any Sydney park, every day of the week), including players coaches and officials have been flown to Adelaide where they are being housed and fed for about a month.

All these players are amateurs (I reckon some of them aren't even worthy to



Charles Dempsey: President of Oceania Confederation.

carry that status) therefore one assumes they have to be compensated for loss of earnings.

The cost in dollars of all this must be very interesting to put it mildly. Added to this is the loss in earnings to the Ericsson League clubs who's own season must encroach even further into Aussie Rules/Rugby League's.

If I had a suspicious mind, I would suspect that this 'joke-jamboree' is paid for

by FIFA money that has been earmarked for coaching and general improvement in the standard of Oceanian football.

In which case — it could backfire on Charlie Dempsey and his Kiwi gang very badly.

I only hope that Havelange, if his brain is still capable of grasping reality, can see what FIFA's money has managed to 'produce'.

Henry Wiziger,
Forestville. NSW.

WHO CARES?

Dear Sir,

Well done John Viskovich and Spiros Metallinos, thank you for your entertaining and informative letters.

Before you dislocate your elbows patting yourselves on the back. I was being sarcastic. You both, and others like you are exactly what is dragging Australian soccer down, to be ignored by the general public and the rest of the world.

Who cares if Croatia is better than Greece or vice versa? Who cares if there are no Greek players in the top leagues of Europe?

If you follow the overseas leagues, that's great, but your letters start talking about Melbourne Croatia or

Sydney Olympic, then degenerate into the battle of the "old countries" of "my home — land against your homeland."

I wouldn't be surprised if neither of you have even been to Europe!

I ask you both one question: where do you live? Support the local teams, follow Australia to Atlanta (and maybe France) and stop arguing about rubbish your grandparents probably wouldn't bother with.

You don't need to defend those countries overseas as I doubt they give a second thought to us over here. OK, I'm calm now... I feel much better.

P. Russo,
Heetarville. SA.

ON REFEREES

Dear Sir,

I was intrigued by Bob Brooks' article, "Sub the Referee", ABSW, 31.1.96.

Over the years, referees accused of critical errors or general incompetence have deflected criticism with words such as:

"Players make mistakes, even the best of them. The same applies to match officials."

It is a fair comment except that, in the World Game, players are summarily dismissed for their worst misdeeds (and occasionally for lesser ones or even none at all).

Maybe Bob has delivered the bottom line!

Alan Tredinnick,
New Lambton. NSW.

Breakers link is lifesaver

Dear Sir,

Critics have been saying that the fallout from the ARL versus Super League war would benefit soccer. In a most ironic way it appears that the Newcastle Breakers are the first beneficiaries.

In 1994 mainly because of huge debts incurred in bringing the Breakers Stadium up to the standards demanded by the NSL, the Breakers came within a whisker of going out of existence and their fine ground would have been lost to soccer for ever.

Because the Breakers managed to survive and retain control of the ground despite some tempting offers to sell Super League, with plenty of money but no readily available suitable ground for their Newcastle franchise, have been forced to embrace the Breakers to solve their critical ground problem.

So the very ground that was the Breakers Millstone that almost bankrupted the club has now become the Cornerstone (trump card prize asset) of what could be a major revival of the fortunes of soccer in the Hunter region.

Of course there is some bad feeling in the area towards the Breakers for dealing with the unpopular Super League but I wonder how many of these people are soccer fans anyway.

As well as the obvious benefits a deal of this nature will bring to the Breakers, the link to Super League also means the opening of doors in high places amongst the corporate world.

Soccer in the Hunter region has been locked into a disastrous downward spiral for most of the last 50 years which has seriously eroded its support base.

Nevertheless despite having a very basic team the new Breakers return to the NSL has been notable for the good crowds they have attracted proving that soccer is not a lost cause in the Hunter.

I don't think this will go unnoticed for long by the business oriented associates at Super League.

After being at death's door in a coma and on life support for far too long, I really believe that Newcastle soccer is on the road to sustained recovery and a new lease of life with the aid of a most unlikely source.

R. Melor,
Bondi. NSW.



Chequered hooligan history

Dear Sir,

As a keen follower of soccer around the world, I have recently bought a copy of a UK based magazine, 'WORLD SOCCER', issue November 1995.

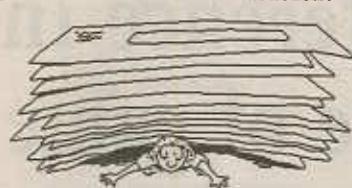
It contained a page about "A-Z of World Great Grounds", written by a certain British author Simon Inglis. In this section was a picture of Zagreb's 'Maksimir Stadium' and some comments about the stadium.

Well if Mr Inglis had this to say about hooliganism in Croatia, which in his knowledge started in the stadium in May 1990, I surely would like to read his description of grounds in Britain. Their hooligan past I think is more chequered than all the Croatia shirts put together.

Joseph Hovanec,
Endeavour Hills. Vic.

Letters to the Editor

Have your say on any soccer issue in the world. Preference will be given to short letters. Include daytime phone number for verification.



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Failed economics

Dear Sir,

My article on promotion and relegation in the National League has even caused Micky Brock to deviate from the UK game to comment in ABSW on Tuesday 9.1.96. A reply is needed.

Tasmanian side. A good idea; however, it takes a couple of years for a large body of dedicated individuals to form a club. Therefore, not likely. ABSW does not even cover Tasmania. Maybe they should!

"More teams also equates to more money through the gate and the chance to go full professional." Failed Economics.

Rather than spread the money out thinly over many players, the money needs to be concentrated amongst the elite players so they can be full-time professionals.

The better players leave Australia because of low wages here.

What improvements have come about

by having 12 teams this year?" The average attendance has increased over 20% to 4,442.

The attendance at South Melbourne has increased 45%; last season averaged 4,877 (ABSW 26.12.95), whereas this season averaged 7,071 (ABSW 9.01.96). More money per club means higher wages for the players.

"There needs to be a choice of games to go to." Not true! In the Winter, the Super League offers the choice of about six games per weekend in Sydney. Most of these games attract only about 100 spectators each.

The choice is what entertainment: soccer game, cricket match, movie, concert, visit the pub, watch TV, visit the beach, and so forth.

More individuals will choose soccer, if there is a single high quality match.

Dr Peter Bayliss,
Pearl Beach, NSW.

Paul Wade column please

Dear Sir,

To compliment the ABSW 'Letters to the Editor' section can we have another opinions page featuring articles from prominent players and officials from within the code.

For instance how about a series of articles from our leading players in Australia on how they see the future of the game. Their opinions on the "de-ethnicising" of Australian soccer and all the other issues and debates on the current agenda.

How about giving Paul Wade a column and me too while you're at it.

Also I would urge David Hill to contribute something regularly to the ABSW to help give a clearer picture of the direction and aims of the current chairman.

I don't feel it is fair that someone who is undertaking such fundamental and important change within this code is all too often unavailable for comment when the need arises.

Maybe Mr Hill is justified in jet setting around handling other projects. I think it is also justifiable that soccer fans



David Hill: Can he make a regular contribution to ABSW?

throughout this country deserve a better account of what is happening on a week to week basis, straight from the horse's mouth.

M Ljubic, Maroochydore, Qld

Keep up very good work

Dear Sir,

After having read through the letters page of your impressive publication for the last couple of months, I would like to take this opportunity to endorse everything that M. Ljubic of Maroochydore stated in his/her letter in the January 23 edition of ABSW.

I have become increasingly alarmed at the arrogant views that are constantly expressed by Mr H. Wizgier. In his attempts to degrade Australia's other forms of football and their spectators, he has totally

alienated these potential soccer spectators from our game.

I believe that this mentality and those of others of the likes of Mr B. Brooks and Dr Bayliss (if he exists), are a prime reason that we are still attracting less than 4,500 die hards on average to our matches.

I can't see the point or advantage in trying to belittle other sports in this country.

In trying to do so, Mr Wizgier has exhibited a 'superiority complex' he harbours or is it just another

case of the 'whingeing Pom'.

To conclude I would like to add that I don't know if you could classify the Croatian Corner as racist, but I believe it is one of the most biased pieces of "journalism" I have ever read.

In its place, why don't we publish a Mongolian Corner as it has as much appeal and relevance to the mainstream Australian soccer supporter as Croatian Corner.

Keep up the very good work.

C. Frearson,
Gymea, NSW.

If only ethnics ruled Aussie soccer

Guest Columnist

HENRY WIZGIER

tackles the
ethnic issue in
Australian Soccer



international competition — in Asia, if they'll have us.

I am not criticising this situation — merely pointing it out!

What is the answer? If you can't join them — beat them therefore I think David Hill is on the right track by favouring the non-triumvirate/non-ethnic clubs from Brisbane, Canberra and Newcastle.

Together with Morwell and Wollongong we can now claim to have five clubs out of 12 in the Ericsson League who truly represent their communities but, until Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide are represented by at least one club each — we do not have a truly national Australian Soccer League!

This game needs two things to enable it to go forward into the big time and they are both connected with the National League.

One is professionalism while the other is International Club competition.

But, here comes the crunch. The top Australian clubs belonging to the 'Triumvirate' do not want to go professional and do not want to compete internationally.

They want to stay as they are namely small, local, part-time outfits catering for their own, ethnic-based supporters!

Why do these clubs not want to become fully professional? Because if they became fully professional they would have to reach out way beyond their own ethnic communities and we are not just talking supporters here but directors, management and major sponsors as well.

There is nothing wrong with these clubs remaining faithful to the people who created them and built them to what they are!

However, I now realise that the worst 'enemy' comes from within the game itself "because" the unavoidable conclusion is that the domination of the 'Triumvirate', is what is

Yes, you're right, Sydney

is the odd-man out because all those other major-cities have football clubs which represent their citizens in their National Leagues, whereas Australia's major metropolis has three clubs in the National League representing only the Italian, Greek and Croatian communities.

There is NO club in the Ericsson League to represent all the Sydney-siders of Sydney!

Now here's another quiz. Name the odd one out from these second cities: Manchester, Barcelona, Milan, Rio de Janeiro, Melbourne, Edinburgh.

Yes you're right again, Australia's second city is the

odd one out, because it is

the only one that does not

represent its citizens, a club

for Melbournites and one

for Adeladians. Is that too

much to ask?

Moves are currently under way in Sydney to create a truly non-Triumvirate/non-ethnic Soccer Club for all Sydney-siders!

What are it's chances of success? Pretty good given the fact that Sydney does not have a true representative in the Ericsson League.

There must be a group of Melbournites with names that are not Greek or Croatian who would like to have a say in the running of their soccer team so get together and start talking because your city is crying-out for a third, National League club.

Make damned sure it's one that will represent Melbournites and not restore the 'Triumvirate status quo'. (i.e. Bulleen Lions. Comprende?)

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Club disappointed by tribunal costs

Melbourne Knights president Angie Cimera said last Friday that fear of further action prevented the National League club from commenting fully on the brawl which led to it being heavily penalised.

Cimera said the reigning premier was disappointed but would not consider an appeal because he said it would be a waste of time and money.

Olyroo midfielder Danny Tiatto was hit with a record \$2500 fine, Knights defender Zoran Markovski and Newcastle goalkeeper Craig Carter were each fined \$1,500 and Melbourne midfielder Mark Silic \$1,000 — all stemming from an on-field scuffle last month.

The club was penalised \$1,500 and placed on a \$10,000 good behaviour bond for failing to ensure the orderly behaviour of the crowd at the match which was played on January 7 at Melbourne's Croatian Sports Centre.

Cimera said his club was disappointed but he stopped short of criticising the league, claiming the club couldn't afford to pay out any more fines.

"I'd love to say what's on my mind but I know they'll come down on me," said



MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

Cimera.

The club is privately seething that the punishment is retribution for the club holding on to its ethnic ties.

All the fined players were punished for violent conduct and bringing the league into disrepute but Knights defender Ante Kovacevic was exonerated.

Socceroo defenders Andrew Marth of Melbourne and Darren Stewart of Newcastle were placed on a \$1,000 good behaviour bond until the end of this year.

But Cimera was curious why Soccer Australia took the unusual step of lifting a mandatory suspension imposed on the player whose dismissal sparked the scuffle.

Newcastle defender Steve Hickman was sent off for allegedly striking Knights midfielder Joe Bacak but the tribunal found the referee made a mistake.

Bacak had his teeth smashed in the behind-the-play incident and left the



Danny Tiatto: Leeds have agreed to pay \$450,000 for him if he impresses in trials.

field with a bloodied face. The clash wasn't captured on film.

The Knights are also disappointed that Soccer Australia didn't give them an opportunity to save money and hold the tribunal by video conference.

Instead, the Knights players had to travel to

Soccer Australia headquarters in Sydney for the tribunal costing the club \$5000 in airfares.

"We had organised the teleconference facilities. We also offered to hold the tribunal in Melbourne but the league's general manager Peter Russell said it wouldn't be fair because a Victorian

tribunal would lean towards us," said Cimera.

Cimera said his players would have to pay their own fines, including Tiatto, who left last weekend for a two-week all expenses paid trial with English Premier League club Leeds United.

Former Knights coach Mirko Bazic sent a video tape of the 22-year-old via a manager to Elland Road and the Leeds' coaching staff liked what they saw.

Tiatto said Leeds, which captured the English league championship in 1991-92, wanted him to fly to England earlier but he was keen to represent his country in the Oceania tournament.

Leeds agreed to pay \$450,000 to the Melbourne Knights for Tiatto if he impressed and passed a tough medical test.

Although he knows little about Leeds, except what he has seen on the television, he should not be too lonely as Adelaide-born full-back Tony Dorigo is an established player with the side.

Teenager Harry Kewell from the New South Wales Institute of Sport is also an apprentice with Leeds.

Thomas finds difference in pace of game

BY DANE SKAFTE

Newcastle Breakers midfielder Scott Thomas has shown his best form over recent weeks. The 21 year old was outstanding in his team's win over Brisbane Strikers, UTS Olympic, and Adelaide City in the Johnnie Walker Cup.

Thomas played in the Final of the cup against Melbourne Knights a fortnight ago. Despite going down 3-1 to the more fancied Knights team the young midfielder (Thomas) can be very happy with his gutsy effort.

Thomas has only been in the starting line-up twice this season in the Ericsson Cup, once against South Melbourne and the other against UTS Olympic.

"It is a lot harder playing in the National League, because a lot of the players are quicker and you don't have much time to think about things," Thomas said.

"My main aim is to be 100 per cent consistent on the park.

"If I keep playing well I will stay in the squad.

There are plenty of players ready to take your position if you don't perform," Thomas said.

The former Adamstown player competed in the NSW



Scott Thomas: Gutsy performance in Johnnie Walker Cup Final.

State League for the past two seasons under coaches Neville Power and Greg Smith.

"The State League is a very different ball game," Thomas said.

"I have adapted well since the beginning of the season."

"Kossie (Kosmina) has been a big benefit, he has given the younger guys a chance on the park," he said.

Thomas is the first to admit his main priority this season is to get a contract for next year.

Thomas acknowledged that his older brother Brett has been the biggest influence in his soccer career.

Last Tuesday night Soccer Australia continued its hard line on players misconduct on the field.

Breakers goalkeeper Craig Carter was fined \$1,500 for violent conduct and bringing the game into disrepute.

Breakers defender Darren Stewart was placed on a one year \$1,000 good behaviour bond for the same charges as Carter.

Soccer Australia publicity officer Scott Crebbin said: "We are trying to give soccer a good name in Australia and stamp out any bad incidents," Crebbin said.

Players and officials who bring the game into disrepute will be severely dealt with," he concluded.

Stowell defends games in hot and humid weather

BY GLENN DAVIS

Brisbane's longest heatwave on record sparked some concerns for players' safety prior to the Strikers' clash against Adelaide City at Suncorp Stadium last Saturday night.

Brisbane last week experienced eight consecutive days of temperatures in the 30s, with extremely high humidity, prompting the question whether or not Ericsson Cup matches should be postponed or kick-off delayed.

Coach Bruce Stowell accepted the Strikers were used to the oppressive heat compared to their southern counterparts but didn't see any reason for deferments.

"So long as there's no direct sunlight when games go on there's no real danger," Stowell said.

"But it's very important players have to rehydrate. It only becomes dangerous if players and (match) officials don't take precautions.

"It's very uncomfortable for players in the heat but we've become used to it as we train at 6pm."

Stowell said playing in



high temperatures was not unusual for either side as the Strikers recalled playing in Adelaide in 36 degree heat some time ago.

Stowell could not see any value in postponing matches or deferring kick-offs to a later start.

"I think we just have to accept the heat and I can't see any reason to postpone a game," he said.

"And I don't think a game could have its kick-off put back to say 10pm or whatever because who's to say it would be any cooler."

Meanwhile Stowell defended his regular practice of not naming his starting line up until match day in the face of some media criticism after Frank Farina and Chris Zorich missed the home leg against Newcastle in the Johnnie Walker Cup.

According to one columnist, soccer fans

received a raw deal and complained bitterly about paying the admission price as they were unaware Farina and Zorich weren't playing.

The columnist said the paying customer had every reason to ask the question and was entitled to "know what the product is before buying it."

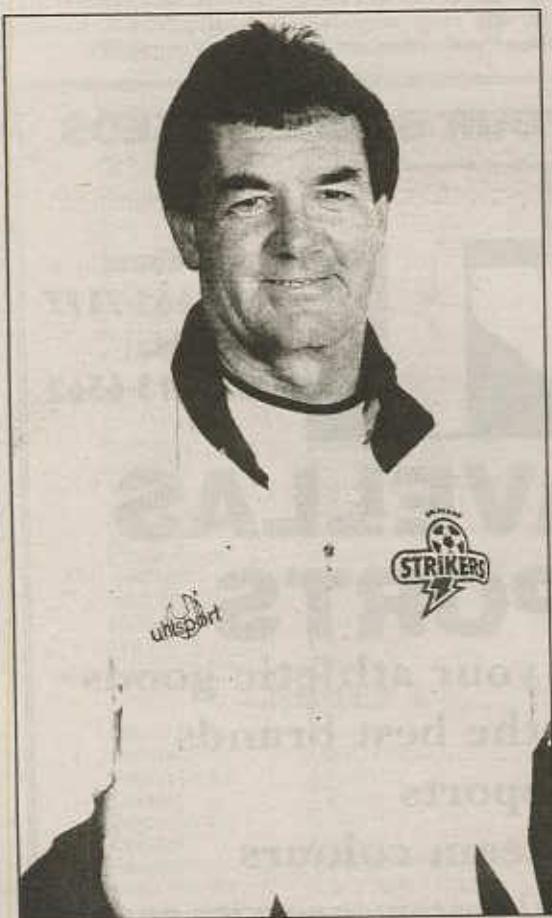
However, a quick phone call to Stowell would have resolved the matter and the need for negative publicity would have been negated.

Stowell pointed out that both injured players went to training the night before the match expecting to play but failed to complete training satisfactorily.

"Both were unfit after Friday night and it was too late then to tell anyone," Stowell said.

In Rugby League the name teams on Tuesdays but by the time the match comes around there's normally several changes anyway.

"I won't be changing my style. Players can pick up vibes during training whether they are playing or not and by naming the team as late as possible keeps everyone on their toes."



Bruce Stowell: "Very important that players and match officials take precautions."

Big changes in playing personnel

BY PHIL MURPHY

Wolves supporters have been flat out keeping up with the arrivals and departures at Brandon Park recently.

The squad has changed dramatically since former coach Berti Mariani went through the departure lounge.

His successor, Nick Theodorakopoulos, has been busy signing new players and allowing others to leave.

The latest arrivals have been Alvin Ceccoli, from Rockdale, and Joe Vrkic, formerly with Sydney United.

They came through the Brandon Park gate hot on the heels of ex-Marconi duo Ian Pollari and Paul Beltrame.

All four were in the Wollongong squad for Saturday night's important away game against Marconi.

There has been plenty of interest in Vrkic, who was a member of the Australian squad at the latest Youth World Cup in Qatar.

He is highly regarded by Theodorakopoulos and the coach believes he will develop into a very fine player.

Pollari will also prove a fine asset to the Wolves when he settles in. Beltrame, arrived at Brandon Park after taking the long route.

Originally from Adelaide, the midfielder had a stint in Canberra before signing with Wollongong Premier League side Port Kembla at the start of last season.

He attracted the attention of Manfred Schaefer and his next stop was Marconi Stadium.



BY PETER KRUPKA

Adelaide City's evergreen utility Jumpin' Joe Mullen has retired from national soccer and will start coaching at the club.

The 333-game veteran, a mainstay through the club's glorious rise to status of Australian soccer superpower, stood aside to allow a younger person the chance to build a career with the club.

The City stalwart was added to the club's coaching staff at the start of the season and will take control as coach of Adelaide City's State League team immediately.

"This was always going to be my last season and coaching the State League side was something I was really looking forward to," Mullen said.

Gentleman Joe forced his way back into the club's senior squad after he injured his ankle in a pre-season match and was forced to have surgery.

But when he was told he would only be used sparingly off the bench for the rest of the season,



Mullen decided to hang up his boots.

"I was told the club was not achieving the results on the park and to achieve something they wanted to blood younger players," Mullen said.

"I didn't really want to finish my career on and off the bench and I thought it would be more beneficial for a young guy to spend some time on there."

"It's disappointing in a way but they're trying to do the best for the club."

"The club's on a two or three year plan and I'm not going to be around in two or three years so I can understand what they're doing."

The midfielder-cum-striker was in his 14th

season with the Zebras having played in each of their club's three championship winning sides — 1986, 1991-92 and 1993-94.

He was a member of the Seoul Olympic squad and played twice for Australia.

Mullen remained loyal to the Zebras despite offers from Preston and Marconi in the late 1980s and he said he never regretted staying with the club he served with such distinction.

"People say you've given great service to the club but the club has given me so many things," he said.

"I've made lots of friends, been able to win three national championship. The club's been fantastic to me through all 14 years and I have no regrets about staying at the club for so long."

Mullen was confident Adelaide City would make the top six this season and be able to rebuild having lost Serg Melta (retired), Tony Vidmar (overseas), Carlo Talladira (Morwell) and Mullen from last year's grand final team.



Joe Mullen: "The club has given me so many things".

WEST ADELAIDE

Qualifiers format change called for

BY PETER KRUPKA

With the dust from Australia's victory in the Oceania Olympic qualifiers barely settled, Socceroo Ross Aloisi has called for Pacific countries to play-off for the right to challenge Australia in future.

Aloisi, a member of the Olyroo squad which won the qualifying tournament at a canter, said the poor quality of the opposition meant it was difficult for his teammates to keep motivated for the two week event which finished in Adelaide last week.

"There wasn't much competition for us and that probably showed in the last game (which Australia lost to New Zealand 0-1)," Aloisi said.

"My opinion is they (the other nations) should play-off against each other and then the winner come and play us in a home and away series."

The Olyroos were too strong over the eight game series against New Zealand,



Solomon Islands, Fiji and Vanuatu belting home 48 goals in eight matches.

The series took its toll on the West Adelaide midfielder who was playing some of his best soccer for the year before he strained a stomach muscle in the first match against Fiji.

He appeared in two other matches during the series but the injury failed to heal and left him sidelined for the Sharks' match against Canberra on Sunday.

The injury was an agonising blow for West Adelaide and Olyroo assistant coach Raul Blanco who had been delighted with Aloisi's form in the series.

"He was happy with the



Ross Aloisi: Olympic qualifiers took their toll with a stomach injury.

way I had been playing and hoping I could continue playing like that for West

as full-time Olyroo coach which is due to be announced by Soccer Australia shortly, would be the perfect man for the job.

"He's been a good coach for West Adelaide and he has shown that with the results we have had this year," Aloisi said.

"He's an unbelievable coach to play under. Maybe he's got high expectations of some people but he's definitely got what it takes."

While the National League season had only just reached its half-way mark, the 22-year-old was confident the Sharks would compete in the finals despite having had star forwards Cyril Ndongo-Keller and Jose Iriarte out with injuries for the early part of the season.

"The players are still confident. We know we've got a good team without having a lot of great players," he said.

"It's a long season and it's hard to say what could happen but we have stayed confident we will make the finals."

Joe Vrkic: Moved from Sydney United.

"The players are certainly working hard enough at training to start winning games."

The four new signings were involved in two friendlies after Wollongong were eliminated from the Johnnie Walker Cup by UTS Olympic. Two NSW Super League clubs were downed. Against St. George it was 4-0. With a good display Wolves then swamped Bonnyrigg 6-2.

On the debit side of the ledger, Wollongong have released experienced midfielder Pedro Ricoy to trial in Singapore and former youth international Robbie Middleby is trying out in Germany.

Ricoy played in Thailand and then had a short spell in India two years ago and has played with five different Australian clubs.

Middleby has had a frustrating time after failing to gain a contract with Dutch Second Division side Maastricht.

His agent had tried other avenues to get trials for the 20-year-old but he finally flew out after playing in the second leg of the Cup against Olympic.

South Coast Super League club Illawarra Lions will benefit from the Wolves' exodus of players.

Strong defender Stuart McLaren and midfielder Chris Stojevski have been cleared to play with the Lions.

Both should be very successful with their new club.

McLaren, originally from Queensland, is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Sport and has made about 25 National League appearances.

Stojevski has been plagued by injuries this season and only recently resumed full training.



Falcons rediscover winning ways

**NEWCASTLE
BREAKERS 1
MORWELL
FALCONS 2**

BY JAI MCDERMOTT

Morwell Falcons survived a spirited fight back to claim three crucial points away to Newcastle at Breakers Stadium last Friday night. Two first half goals proved enough for the Falcons to erase the memories of their horrific pre Christmas slide, finally winning 2-1.

Newcastle looked to build on the form which took them to the Johnnie Walker Cup final, with coach John Kosmina keeping faith with the young lineup which performed so well during the Ericsson Cup recess.

Despite their confident start though it was Morwell who took an early lead, albeit against the run of play.

SCORERS: Newcastle: Stewart (80) Morwell: Hickman (18 own goal), Villani (34). **YELLOW CARDS:** Newcastle: Sharpley (78), Halpin (84), Thomas (87), Stewart (89), Pryce (90). Morwell: Douglas (31), Bothwell (80), Miller (87). **POY:** 3-Miller (Morwell), 2-Stewart (Newcastle), 1-Thomas (Newcastle). **CROWD:** 3,971. **REFEREE:** B. Hugo

A searching ball from defender Doug Marcina drifted dangerously in towards the back post. The Falcons frontman provided confusion in the Breakers' defence and Steve Hickman headed into his own net in the 18th minute.

Falcons' keeper Jim Kourtis miraculously saved a stunning drive from Troy Halpin.

Former Newcastle hero

Warren Spink threaded an inch-perfect angled pass through the quickly retreating Breakers defence. It was met by the rampaging run of Carlo Villani. His delicate finish past the advancing Carter seemed to suggest the beginnings of a rout.

Villani's forays were aided by the support of powerful left flanker Scott Miller. Their partnership provided Morwell with most of its impetus in the first half.

While it has been the squad's young players who have gained most of the attention over the last month it was an older hand who shone for the side for the Morwell clash. Darren Stewart returned to the fighting form which has made him a favourite with the Newcastle crowd. It was his best performance since his return to the squad this season.

Stewart's influence finally registered on the score sheet in the 80th minute. He

crashed a free kick from 30 metres through the Falcons' wall, a wicked deflection helping the ball past a stranded Jim Kourtis.

The late goal set up a ferocious finale to an entertaining match. Both sides displayed outstanding commitment resulting in some frightening physical encounters. Referee Brett Hugo handed out a total of eight yellow cards, seven within the frantic final 12 minute period.

Morwell cleared the ball three times off their own goal-line in the dying moments, the most amazing, the last to deny Stewart a second goal. A magnificent back post header looked certain to earn the home side a richly deserved point until courageous Falcons captain John Waddell stretched to deny the Breakers.

Morwell coach Harry Bingham was satisfied with the three points although he admitted his side had "played better and lost". The Falcons

boss said he had expected a tough assignment away at Newcastle, particularly after their Johnnie Walker Cup run; "the sides from the bottom half are often the most dangerous because they have that desperation and fighting spirit".

Breakers mentor John Kosmina was understandably disappointed with the result but was suitably impressed by the performance of his young squad. He claimed that his side, "made some naive mistakes" but praised the inspirational Hickman and the character shown by the team in the second half; "we are learning about the fighting spirit needed to win at this level."

NEWCASTLE: Carter, Hickman, Maier, Sharpley, Halpin, James (Zane 71), Bennett (Lowe 67), Thomas, Pryce, Stewart, Ritchie.

MORWELL: Kourtis, Marcina, Canosa, Miller, Sevin (Stergiopoulos 76), Waddell, Bothwell, Talladira, Villani, Spink, Douglas.



Darren Stewart: Returned to fighting form and put away a 30m free kick.

Revamped Wolves no match for Marconi

**MARCONI
FAIRFIELD 3
WOLLONGONG
CITY 1**

BY BOB BROOKS

The Ericsson Cup game on Saturday evening between Marconi and Wollongong had twelve and a half minutes added on by yellow card happy referee Con Diomis.

Three points went to Marconi which moved them to the top of the table, one ahead of UTS Olympic who played on Sunday. Each team copped five cautions in what can only be called a keen contest but hardly a dirty one.

Wolves had three new faces in their line-up with Ian Pollari and Paul Beltrame having moved in January from Fairfield Marconi. Joe Vrkic, carrying number 25, arrived from Sydney United.

The visitors harried the home side and it was no surprise when they eventually took the lead. Wolves approach work applied pressure to the Stallion's defence but their finishing lacked purpose.

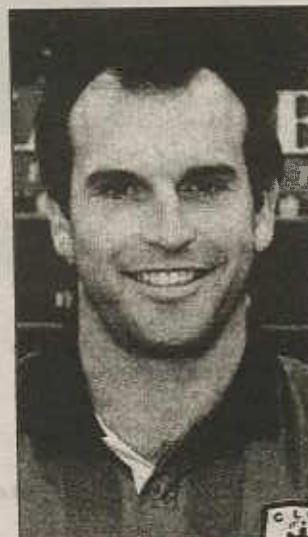
In the 38th minute the ball was pumped goalwards once more. Bob Catlin was forced to use his feet to stop the shot. The rebound was picked up and again belted towards the target, Catlin was again in the way.

From nowhere Mario Jermen appeared to fire home from just outside the box through a ruck of players.

Moments later Brad Maloney forced Brett Hughes to a great save from close range. The shot

SCORERS: Marconi: Awaritefe (44), Harper (58, 62 pen) Wollongong: Jermen (39). **YELLOW CARDS:** Marconi: Smith (13), Awaritefe (24), Van Egmond (28), Harper (61), Stanton (67) Wollongong: Perinich (28), Vrkic (43), Pollari (62), Bourke (64), O'Shea (75). **POY:** 3-Hughes (Wolves), 2-Bingley (Marconi), 1-Bourke (Wolves). **CROWD:** 3,513. **REFEREE:** C. Diomis

Took a slight deflection as the Wolves custodian dived along the ground, somehow he got a hand to it and managed to push it over the top.



Andy Harper: His double sunk the visitors.

Well into the seven and half minutes of time added on in the first half, Marconi drew level. It was live-wire Matthew Bingley going forward for once who created the chance. The ball fell to Maloney who put the ball into the path of Francis Awaritefe for the flamboyant character to ram home.

Vlado Zoric, who is gradually finding his feet in the National League, was instrumental in Marconi's second goal. He raided forward from his own half, straight down the middle. A well weighted pass found Awaritefe on the right, the subsequent centre was met by Harper. His shot left Hughes stranded.

Four minutes on Andy Harper converted a penalty to take Marconi further ahead. Bingley was tripped just inside the box as he attacked the defence down the left side.

With four minutes to go, Luke Casserly tore the Wolves defence apart with a devastating run. He hooked his final shot from one metre out and well over the bar.

Marconi's Manfred Schaefer will have his 'chargers' working hard on set pieces during the next few training sessions. The corner kicks were woeful and the free kicks were mainly given away to the opposition.

MARCONI: Catlin, Van Egmond, Stanton, Bingley (Hristodoulou 74), Casserly, Harper, Maloney, Smith (Renaud HT), Awaritefe, Souris, Zoric.

WOLLONGONG: Hughes, Bourke, Horsley, Naumovski, Perinich, Jermen (Luff 78), O'Shea, Pollari, Beltrame (A. Ceccoli 71), Vrkic, Lloyd (Jolevski 56).

Brisbane avenge Hindmarsh thrashing

**BRISBANE
STRIKERS 7
ADELAIDE
CITY 1**

BY GLENN DAVIS

Brisbane Strikers' 7-1 thrashing of Adelaide City at Suncorp Stadium on Saturday night reinforced two vital factors to emerge in the Ericsson Cup this season.

The obvious point is the Strikers are now no longer national league pretenders and are well and truly strong semi-final contenders and could even press for Championship honours by the end of the season.

The victory, boosted by a hat trick from goalscoring ace Frank Farina, avenged the clubs worst loss when trounced 7-0 by Adelaide City last November and moved them within striking distance of the league leaders.

The second factor was driven home after the match by Adelaide City coach John Perin who believes there's only one solution to his club's poor Ericsson Cup season.

"We need four players but whether we get them now or wait until next season remains to be seen," Perin said.

Perin acknowledged the Zebras who were beaten by Melbourne Knights in last years grand final, face an uphill battle to make the top six.

"It's going to be tough now to get into the six," Perin said.

SCORERS: Brisbane: Ditton (22), Farina (38, 51, 52), Brown (46, 48), Polak (77). Adelaide: Hassell (89).

YELLOW CARDS: Brisbane: Williams (37) Adelaide: Nedeljkovic (27), Perin (57). **POY:** 3-Farina (Brisbane), 2-Brown (Brisbane), 1-Ditton (Brisbane). **CROWD:** 4,880. **REFEREE:** M. Shield

"We didn't want to compete tonight and I doubt whether our injured players would have made any difference."

In contrast, Strikers coach Bruce Stowell was delighted his side had now established a ten point gap over the Adelaide club who looked well below the class of past seasons.

The Strikers' victory was tempered to some degree by injuries to defender Mark Battistin (ankle) and Craig Williams (knee) while Chris Zoricich spent ten minutes off the park receiving stitches to a head gash.

The Strikers held a 2-0 lead at half time courtesy of goals from Brad Ditton and Farina but really took charge of the match after the break.

Ditton, a substitute for injured Battistin, opened the Strikers account in the 22nd minute rifling a 35 metre shot through the hands of City 'keeper Jason Petkovic.

Ditton played a hand in the Strikers' second in the 38th minute chipping a pass to Troy Cranney in the box who laid the

ball back for Farina to hammer home.

The second half opened sensationally with four goals in seven minutes after the break.

Farina's forward partner Rob Brown notched up a double, his first less than a minute after play resumed when he lobbed Petkovic who was caught stranded off his line after advancing to block Farina.

Brown then found himself unmarked at the far post scoring from close range from a Jason Polak free kick in the 48th minute.

A poor attempt at a goal mouth clearance made it 5-0 when Farina headed in his second in the 51st minute while a controversial incident provided the former international with his hat trick one minute later.

Farina appeared to hand ball after he charged into the box before rifling his shot home for his second hat trick of the season which takes his tally to 12 for the year.

Late in the game Polak provided the Strikers with their seventh goal. It came from close range while the only consolation for Adelaide City came in the dying seconds when Brad Hassell scored with a header.

BRISBANE: Bolton, Zoricich, Williams (Hews 65), Hunter, Phillips, Farina (Tollenaire 75), Polak, Brown, T. Cranney, Brayshaw, Battistin (Ditton 13).

ADELAIDE: Petkovic, Nedeljkovic, Yates, Tobin, Mori (Salapasidis 65), Hassell, Gibson (Bazzale 60), Perin, Armour, Marino (Costanzo 40), Foster.



ERICSSON CUP

MATCH REPORTS

Knights go scoreless again

**MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 0
SYDNEY UNITED 0**

BY CON STAVROS

Melbourne Knights new found reputation for low scoring matches gained further strength following their scoreless effort with Sydney United.

Traditionally one of the highest scoring teams in the league, the Knights were shutout for the seventh time this season in a relatively dull match, that only sparked some interest following the sending off of defender Andrew Marth.

In a dismissal that matched the low key, little enthusiasm style of the game, Marth earned an expulsion in the 64th minute for dissent, much to the surprise of the crowd and the players who barely realised

YELLOW CARDS:
Knights: Marth (51 and 64), Spiteri (84)
United: Enes (3), Zdrilic (89)
RED CARD: Knights: Marth (64)
POY: 3-Genc (United), 2-Enes (United), 1-Cervinski (Knights)
CROWD: 5,830
REFEREE: E. Brazzale

what was happening.

Cautioned in the 51st minute to much displeasure, Marth's remonstrations with referee Eugene Brazzale following the awarding of a Sydney corner shortly after escalated the problem to the ultimate solution.

Marth perhaps would have been better served had he thanked Brazzale for getting his team out of jail in the third minute of the game when defender Ante Kovacevic clearly fouled Ante Milicic for what should have been a penalty.

Following on from an

excellent run by Jim Patikas and a shot by Aytec Genc that was superbly deflected by Frank Juric, Milicic ran in to finish, when Kovacevic fell awkwardly into his back.

There was no surprise at first at the referee's whistle, although pandemonium broke out amongst the United players when they realised Brazzale had given the foul against Milicic, with Robbie Enes cautioned for his protesting.

The Knights had their own further moment of refereeing controversy three minutes from the end when Joe Spiteri broke free on goal and was tackled viciously by last defender Richard Plesa. The referee chose to wave play on for that one in a close call, at least allowing him to be called consistent.

Surprisingly the Knights really only looked a chance to be winners after the loss of Marth, having to wait for the second half before firing at goal, with a half chance sprayed wide by Damian Vojtek in the 54th minute.



Andrew Marth: Given his marching orders for dissent.

United had wasted several chances to move ahead in the first half which they

dominated, with Patikas missing the easiest chance in the 40th minute with his side-footed attempt from close range sailing over the bar.

New Knights coach Ian Dobson probably wasn't sure whether to be happy or sad at the outcome of his first league game in charge for the Knights, given the nature of the proceedings.

"In the end considering the sending off it was a good effort," he said, although the Knights wasted their best chances in the closing stages when the desperation of the situation made them step up a gear.

The draw was particularly costly for United who wasted the opportunity to dramatically close the gap on UTS Olympic who were playing and losing across a gear.

Despite playing with an injury, Tony Popovic was his usual excellent self in defence, despite an early embarrassment when speedy Joe Bacak waltzed past him, before ruining his excellent work with a crazy cross that powered high and wide to safety.

KNIGHTS: Juric, Buljubasic (Markovski 66), DeAmicis, Cervinski, Marth, Silic, Simunic, Spiteri, Lapsansky (Vojtek 30), Kovacevic, Bacak (T. Pondejuk 85).

UNITED: Perosh, Kupresak, Popovic, M. Babic, Enes Genc, Markovac (Lamond 71), Milicic, Patikas, Zdrilic, Bilokapic (Plesa 66).

Petersen brilliant as South down Olympic

**SOUTH MELBOURNE 2
UTS OLYMPIC 1**

BY DWYGH TUFFNELL

South Melbourne won its seventh straight game at Lakeside Stadium with a 2-1 result over recent ladder leaders UTS Olympic on Sunday night.

The victory was soured by an alleged incident between Olympic coach David Ratcliffe and a South official that occurred in the tunnel after the game. (See page 3).

The incident took some gloss off what was a good performance from the Blues in beating Olympic in front of a huge home crowd.

Mike Petersen and Paul Trimboli were both outstanding for South, with the former having a major role in both goals.

His first contribution was a through ball to Daniel Allsopp who cut the ball back superbly from the bye line for Vaughan Coveny to stab the ball past George Bouhoustos.

Trimboli was then on the end of another special through pass. He had the easy job of poking the ball home to give South a two goal break on the hour.

Six minutes later Olympic were nearly brought back into the game when South old boy Kimon Taliadoros hit a post with Mike Petkovic well beaten.

Petkovic, in for his first National League appearance had proved himself a competent keeper with two important

SCORERS: South: Coveny (29), Trimboli (60)
Olympic: Trajanovski (81)
YELLOW CARDS:
South: Petersen (17), Damianos (61)
Olympic: Trajanovski (26), Tome (61)
POY: 3-Petersen (South), 2-Trimboli (South), 1-M Petkovic (South)
CROWD: 10,127
REFEREE: G. Connolly



Kris Trajanovski: Scored consolation goal.

saves from Taliadoros and Peter Tsekenis.

Coveny had the chance to score his second goal and to wrap the game up with 10 minutes left.

His first effort had been blocked by Bouhoustos but he quickly followed up the rebound only to see it bounce away off an upright.

Just a minute later Kris Trajanovski pulled a goal back after Alistair Edwards had headed back a George Valas cross for him to tap in.

The remaining minutes proved to be a struggle for the Blues as they fought to maintain their lead.

Hearts were in mouths in the 84th minute when defender Con Blatsis upended Taliadoros in the box for what appeared to be a certain penalty, but Connolly waved away Olympic protests.

"We are finally playing the way we thought that we could," said South coach Frank Arok afterwards.

"We had so many chances that we could have scored one or two goals more."

Olympic coach Ratcliffe brought on 17-year-old Ivan Zelic at half-time. The youngster has the unenviable task of being Nez Zelic's brother.

SOUTH: M Petkovic, Blatsis, Kuzmanovic, Panopoulos (Nikolic 58), Coveny, Trimboli, Damianos (Anthopoulos 87), Petersen, Knezevic, Baser, Allsop (Lewis 87).

OLYMPIC: Bouhoustos, Barrett, Tsekenis, Taliadoros, Tome, Slater (Zelic HT), Trajanovski, Ardene (Valas 81), Meredith, Blagojevic, Edwards.

Sharks overcome Cosmos in thriller

**WEST ADELAIDE 2
CANBERRA COSMOS 1**

BY PETER KRUPKA

A second half revival handed West Adelaide a 2-1 win over Canberra Cosmos in a thrilling national league clash at Hindmarsh Stadium on Sunday.

The Sharks came from behind after the break and secured the win five minutes from fulltime when substitute Cyrille Ndongo-Keller turned in a volley from the six metre box after a pinpoint cross from Olyroo defender Richie Alagich.

Having been outplayed in the first 45 minutes, the Sharks came right back into the match when striker Jim Tsekinis fired home a volley from a cross from Pablo Cardozo to equalise a minute after the restart.

The presence of the Cameroon international, who has missed most of the season with a knee injury, made an immediate impact as the Sharks came to life having conceded a 37th minute goal to Canberra's Alex Castro.

After the equaliser the well-organised Canberra defence was stretched to the limit as chances fell to Branko Milosevic and Cardozo. To their credit the visitors never refused to settle for a draw and attacked with purpose despite

SCORERS: West Adelaide: Tsekinis (46), Ndongo-Keller (85)
Canberra: Castro (37)
YELLOW CARDS: West Adelaide: Thorp (90), Tibaldi (36)
Canberra: Dee (15), Mazis (36), T. Popovich (55)
POY: 3-Cardozo (West Adelaide), 2-Dee (Canberra), 1-Alagich (West Adelaide)
CROWD: 3,316
REFEREE: W. Dade

the limited chances the rejuvenated Sharks allowed them.

Tony Lemezina looked to have scored on 70 minutes but he was ruled to have used his hand before he fired the ball home from close range.

Former West midfielder Gus Cerro then unleashed a wicked drive from 25 metres which was brilliantly tipped over the crossbar by Peter Blazincic.

Canberra took a deserved



Jim Tsekinis: Scored on resumption to even up game.

lead into the halftime break when a free kick from Paul Dee fell to the feet of Castro on the edge of the penalty box.

The West defence allowed Castro too much time to size up the shot which sailed past keeper Blazincic's outstretched hand into the right hand corner of the net.

Canberra held the Sharks to a 1-1 draw in the first leg of the Johnnie Walker Cup at Hindmarsh on January 3 and again stumped the home side with a well organised approach early in the game.

Castro could have scored earlier in the match when Lemezina threaded a superb ball behind the Sharks' defence into his path but he only managed to poke the ball wide of the post.

The visitors' aerial advantage had West in trouble early when forward Marko Perinovic beat Blazincic to a cross and his strong header was goalbound until it was hooked off the line by Robbie Slager.

The Sharks also had a golden chance to score midway through the first half when a cross fell perfectly for Cardozo to volley unchallenged from 10 metres but his shot went over the bar.

WEST ADELAIDE: Blazincic, Alagich, Kokkinopitis, Slager, Hooker, Tibaldi (Thorp 72), Iriarte (Ndongo-Keller (HT), Cardozo, Milosevic, Tsekinis, Day.

CANBERRA: Mautone, Dee, Watson, Wade, Perinovic, T. Popovich, Castro, Dukic, Lemezina, Cerro, Mazis.

ERICSSON CUP

Adelaide City v Morwell Falcons



ROUND 21

Wed., Feb. 7

HINDMARSH STADIUM



AD CITY	Pos	GMS	GLS	YC
	(1) RES		(1) RC	
Jason Petkovic	G	18 (0)	0	0 (0)
Milan Ivanovic	D	17 (0)	0	3 (0)
Sasha Nedeljkovic	D	8 (3)	0	4 (1)
Alex Tobin	D	18 (0)	2	2 (0)
Brad Armour	D	16 (0)	1	5 (0)
Joel Marino	D	1 (1)	0	1 (0)
Mark Yates	D	14 (2)	0	3 (0)
Mark Brazzale *	M	5 (2)	0	0 (0)
Angelo Costanzo	M	5 (6)	0	0 (0)
Craig Foster	M	4 (0)	0	0 (0)
John Gibson	M	18 (0)	1	2 (0)
Goran Lozanovski	M	17 (0)	0	3 (0)
Dino Mennillo	M	4 (10)	1	2 (0)
Jamie Perin	M	13 (1)	0	3 (1)
Brad Hassell	S	16 (1)	6	0 (0)
Damian Mori	S	18 (0)	13	1 (0)
Joe Mullen	S	8 (1)	3	1 (0)
Kosta Salapasisidis	U	1 (8)	0	0 (0)

* Mark Brazzale's stats include 5 full and 1 substitute appearance for West Adelaide.

Head to Head: Ad City 4-3-0, Goals (18-8)
Ad City at home: 3-0-0, Goals (10-4)

RECORD

AD CITY	MORWELL
Record Score: 4-0 (A) 1995-1996. LAST 5 MATCHES	Record Score: N/A LAST 5 MATCHES
At home: 1-3-1	Away: 1-2-2

MORWELL	Pos	GMS	GLS	YC
	(1) RES		(1) RC	
Jim Kourtis	G	16 (0)	0	0 (0)
Jason Dastey	G	2 (0)	0	0 (0)
Claudio Canosa	D	16 (1)	1	7 (0)
David Craig	D	1 (4)	0	1 (0)
Sean Douglas	D	12 (0)	1	3 (0)
Alex Cummings	D	7 (4)	0	1 (0)
Justin Geri	D	1 (1)	0	0 (0)
Scott Miller	D	17 (0)	1	4 (0)
Doug Marcina	D	18 (0)	0	1 (0)
John Waddell	D	17 (0)	1	3 (0)
James Alesi	M	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Sonny Sevin	M	17 (1)	1	0 (0)
Marc Stergiopoulos	M	7 (10)	1	3 (0)
Carlo Talladira *	M	3 (7)	0	0 (0)
Ernie Tapai	M	16 (0)	1	6 (1)
Zoran Todorovski	M	0 (5)	0	0 (0)
Brian Bothwell	S	17 (0)	4	4 (0)
Rob Despotovski	S	1 (5)	1	0 (0)
Michael Reda	S	11 (5)	2	3 (0)
Warren Spink	S	17 (0)	6	2 (0)
Carlo Villani	S	4 (4)	2	0 (0)

* Carlo Talladira's stats include 2 full and 7 substitute appearances for Adelaide City

ABSW TIPS

- (44) Allstair Russell: Ad City
- (39) John Economos: Ad City
- (54) Greg Blake: Draw
- (50) Con Stavros: Ad City
- (35) Bob Brooks: Ad City

Sydney United

v UTS Olympic



Saturday,
February 10
SYD CROAT
SPT CEN



SYD UTD	Pos	GMS	GLS	YC
	(1) RES		(1) RC	
John Perosh	G	18 (0)	0	0 (0)
Mark Babic	D	15 (0)	0	2 (0)
Paul Bilokapic	D	16 (0)	1	4 (0)
Andrew Crews	D	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Velimir Kupresak	D	18 (0)	0	2 (0)
Richard Plesa	D	8 (4)	0	2 (0)
Tony Popovic	D	16 (0)	4	2 (0)
Mark Rudan	D	5 (7)	1	2 (0)
Robert Enes	M	17 (0)	0	4 (0)
Aytek Genc	M	11 (0)	1	2 (0)
Chad Gibson	M	1 (0)	0	0 (0)
Ante Moric	M	13 (0)	0	2 (1)
Jim Patikas	M	6 (0)	0	1 (0)
Robert Trajkovski	M	4 (0)	0	1 (0)
Robert Markovac	M	7 (6)	3	1 (0)
Dominic Usaj	M	2 (5)	0	0 (0)
Sean Babic	S	3 (9)	2	3 (0)
Manis Lamond	S	3 (7)	3	1 (0)
Ante Milicic	S	18 (0)	5	1 (0)
David Zdrilic	S	17 (1)	4	2 (0)

Head to Head: Level 9-7-9, Goals (S U 34-32)
Syd Utd at home: 7-2-3, Goals (21-13)

RECORD

SYD UTD	OLYMPIC
Record Score: 5-0 (H) 1985. LAST 5 MATCHES	Record Score: 5-0 (A) 1992-1993. LAST 5 MATCHES
At home: 4-0-1	Away: 2-1-2

OLYMPIC	Pos	GMS	GLS	YC
	(1) RES		(1) RC	
George Bouhoutsos	G	4 (0)	0	0 (0)
Mike Gibson	G	14 (0)	0	0 (0)
Scott Baillie	D	6 (1)	1	4 (0)
Dave Barrett	D	18 (0)	0	2 (0)
Milan Blagojevic	D	17 (0)	0	4 (0)
Adam Ciantar	D	16 (0)	1	0 (0)
Nick Meredith	D	14 (1)	1	6 (0)
Nick Orlic	D	12 (4)	0	1 (0)
George Sorras	D	3 (5)	0	2 (0)
Walter Ardone	M	13 (2)	2	2 (0)
Elias Augerinos	M	3 (9)	2	1 (0)
Kris Trajanovski	M	17 (0)	13	1 (0)
Peter Tskenis	M	18 (0)	1	3 (0)
George Valas	M	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Raphael Bove	U	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Alistair Edwards	S	1 (0)	0	0 (0)
Ivo De Jesus	S	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Norman Tome	S	18 (0)	5	4 (0)
Kim Taliadoros	S	12 (2)	5	2 (0)
Chris Slater *	S	5 (8)	1	1 (0)
Ivan Zelic	S	0 (1)	0	0 (0)

* Chris Slater's stats include 1 full and 2 substitute appearances for Brisbane.

ABSW TIPS

- (44) Allstair Russell: Draw
- (39) John Economos: Draw
- (54) Greg Blake: Sydney
- (50) Con Stavros: Draw
- (35) Bob Brooks: Olympic

Form Guide

COMPILED BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

Canberra Cosmos

v Brisbane Strikers



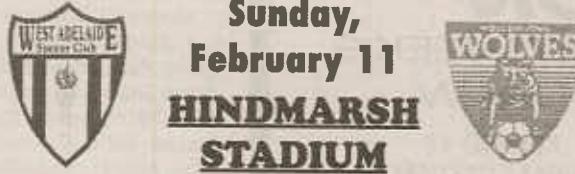
Saturday,
February 10
BRUCE
STADIUM



CANBERRA	Pos	GMS	GLS	YC
	(1) RES		(1) RC	
Steve Mautone	G	15 (0)	0	1 (0)
Ben Harris	G	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Danny Milosevic	G	3 (0)	0	0 (0)
Paul Dee	D	18 (0)	1	4 (0)
Stan Dukic	D	7 (3)	0	0 (0)
Peter Mazis	D	5 (0)	0	1 (0)
Richard Watson	D	11 (0)	0	1 (0)
Jason Dunn	D	16 (0)	1	1 (1)
Joe Gagetti	D	4 (0)	0	2 (0)
Paul Wade	D	18 (0)	9	2 (0)
Jim Baxter	M	5 (4)	0	1 (0)
Alex Castro	M	1 (0)	1	0 (0)
Gus Cerro	M	5 (0)	0	1 (0)
Norman Kelly	M	8 (0)	1	4 (0)
John Koch	M	11 (0)	0	2 (0)
Arsenije Popovich</				

ERICSSON CUP

West Adelaide v Wollongong City



Sunday,
February 11

HINDMARSH
STADIUM

WEST AD	Pos	GMS	GLS	YC
	(1) RES		(1) RC	
Peter Blazincic	G	18 (0)	0	1 (0)
George Haniotis	D	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Robbie Hooker	D	18 (0)	3	2 (0)
Rechat Mezenof	D	0 (4)	0	0 (0)
Con Kokkinoplitis	D	17 (0)	0	2 (0)
Frank Tibaldi	D	16 (0)	0	4 (1)
Robbie Slager	D	17 (0)	2	4 (0)
Richie Alagich	M	17 (1)	0	2 (0)
Ross Aloisi	M	16 (0)	2	6 (0)
Ayrton Andrioli	M	3 (4)	0	2 (0)
Jim Keramidas	M	1 (3)	0	0 (0)
Pablo Cardozo	M	17 (1)	6	3 (0)
Atthan Lekkas	M	2 (2)	0	1 (0)
Branko Milosevic *	M	10 (2)	0	1 (0)
Hamilton Thorpe	M	6 (3)	0	1 (0)
Jim Tsekinis	S	17 (1)	7	3 (0)
Jose Iriarte	S	7 (6)	0	3 (0)
C Ndongo-Keller	S	1 (2)	1	0 (0)
Nathan Day	U	11 (5)	4	4 (0)

* Branko Milosevic's stats include 2 full and 2 substitute appearances for UTS Olympic

Head to Head: Wolves 8-5-4, Goals (29-18)
West Ad at home: 3-3-3, Goals (14-12)

RECORD

WEST AD	WOLVES
Record Score: 4-0 (H)	Record Score: 7-0 (H)
1982, + '89-'90.	1989-1990.
LAST 5 MATCHES	LAST 5 MATCHES

At home: 4-0-1 Away: 1-0-4

WOLVES	Pos	GMS	GLS	YC
	(1) RES		(1) RC	
Brett Hughes	G	17 (0)	0	2 (1)
Steve Angelov	G	1 (0)	0	0 (0)
Martin Bourke	D	18 (0)	0	2 (0)
Matthew Dihm	D	5 (3)	0	0 (0)
Steve Forshaw	D	9 (1)	1	2 (1)
Bill Gjakovski	D	14 (1)	1	3 (1)
Ian Pollari	D	1 (0)	0	1 (0)
George Jolevski	D	12 (3)	0	2 (1)
Richard Lloyd	D	11 (1)	0	0 (0)
Mike O'shea	D	5 (0)	0	3 (0)
Joe Vrkic *	D	1 (1)	0	1 (0)
Paul Beltrame *	M	5 (3)	0	2 (0)
Mineo Bonetig	M	3 (6)	0	1 (0)
Matthew Borg	M	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Alvin Ceccoli	M	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Claudio Cellini	M	2 (0)	0	0 (0)
Pedro Ricoy	M	16 (0)	0	4 (1)
Matt Horsley	M	16 (0)	0	1 (0)
Lupco Naumovski	M	14 (0)	2	1 (0)
Angelo Petratos	M	6 (10)	2	2 (1)
Mario Jermen	S	5 (4)	1	0 (0)
Colin Luff	S	4 (9)	1	0 (0)
Tony Perinich	S	18 (0)	5	2 (0)
Stuart McLaren	S	7 (2)	0	2 (0)
Rob Middleby	S	12 (2)	0	2 (2)

* Paul Beltrame's stats include 4 full and 3 substitute appearances, 2 y c for Marconi

* Joe Vrkic made 1 sub appearance for Syd Utd.

ABSW TIPS

- (44) Alistair Russell: West Ad
- (39) John Economos: Wolves
- (54) Greg Blake: West Ad
- (50) Con Stavros: West Ad
- (35) Bob Brooks: Wolves

South Melbourne

v Marconi Fairfield



Sunday,
February 11
BOB JANE
STADIUM

SOUTHS	Pos	GMS	GLS	YC
	(1) RES		(1) RC	
Dean Anastasiadis	G	15 (0)	0	0 (0)
Michael Lilikakis	G	2 (0)	0	0 (0)
Michael Petkovic	G	1 (0)	0	0 (0)
Con Anthopoulos	D	13 (1)	0	3 (0)
Alan Davidson	D	7 (0)	0	0 (0)
Alex Duric	D	3 (2)	0	3 (0)
Steve Mangos	D	4 (3)	1	0 (0)
Jean Paul Knezevic	D	1 (0)	0	0 (0)
Alex Kuzmanovic	D	16 (0)	0	4 (1)
Nick Papadopoulos	D	3 (0)	0	0 (0)
Mike Valkanis	D	10 (1)	0	5 (0)
Paul Trimboli	M	17 (0)	7	1 (0)
Tansel Baser	M	6 (3)	0	0 (0)
Con Blatsis	M	7 (0)	1	2 (1)
Bill Damianos	M	11 (5)	2	1 (0)
Sasa Nikolic	M	5 (8)	0	2 (0)
Steve Panopoulos	M	13 (2)	4	2 (0)
Mike Petersen	M	17 (0)	0	4 (0)
Daniel Allsopp	S	4 (1)	1	0 (0)
Vaughan Coveny	S	16 (0)	3	1 (1)
Michael Curcija	S	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Ivan Kelic	S	14 (2)	7	1 (0)
Craig Lewis	S	3 (13)	1	4 (0)
Agim Sherifovski	S	10 (2)	1	2 (1)

Head to Head: Marconi 14-7-12, Goals (31-21)
Souths at home: 9-0-7, Goals (25-20)

RECORD

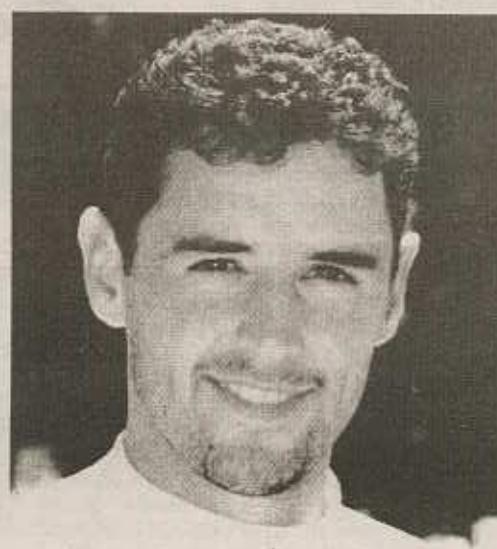
SOUTHS	Pos	GMS	GLS	YC
	(1) RES		(1) RC	
Record Score: 4-1(A)	1980.			
LAST 5 MATCHES				
At home: 4-1-0				
Record Score: 6-0 (H)	1979.			
LAST 5 MATCHES				
Away: 3-1-1				

MARCONI	Pos	GMS	GLS	YC
	(1) RES		(1) RC	
Bob Catlin	G	18 (0)	0	0 (0)
Luke Casserly	D	5 (5)	0	2 (0)
J P De Marigny	D	16 (0)	0	5 (0)
Aaron Holst	D	5 (2)	0	0 (0)
Darren Iocca	D	1 (5)	0	2 (0)
Dominic Longo	D	10 (0)	1	3 (1)
Mike Smith	D	11 (0)	5	4 (0)
Paul Souris	D	13 (4)	0	0 (0)
Robert Stanton	D	14 (3)	0	2 (0)
Gary Van Egmond	D	11 (0)	0	2 (0)
Matt Bingley	M	15 (0)	3	0 (0)
Ramon Climent	M	3 (2)	0	1 (0)
Eric Hristodoulou	M	11 (6)	2	0 (0)
Brad Maloney	M	17 (1)	4	2 (0)
Andrew Ravanello	M	0 (2)	0	1 (0)
Brendan Renaud	M	3 (5)	1	0 (0)
Vlado Zoric	M	6 (5)	0	1 (0)
Andy Harper	S	18 (0)	10	3 (0)
Francis Awaritefe	S	17 (1)	6	3 (0)

Form Guide

COMPILED BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

Muscat re-signs with South Melbourne



Olyroo skipper Kevin Muscat (above) has buried the hatchet on a bitter past with South Melbourne and is expected to be in the national league line-up as soon as possible.

Muscat last Thursday signed a one-year contract with the Blues, fulfilling national coach Eddie Thomson's wish that he stay in Australia until the Atlanta Olympics.

The defender, who has returned to his old club after failing to win a contract in England, vowed he would never play for South Melbourne again after he accused them of standing in the way of his dream to play with first division club Sheffield United last October.

"I wasn't happy at the time but obviously whatever is in the past should be left there," said Muscat. "You have to forgive and forget."

South Melbourne originally asked Sheffield United to give it a 50 per cent cut from any future transfer fees in a deal that was going to reap the club extra thousands. But Muscat was left without a contract when United changed owners. Before returning home he trialled with English Premier League club Coventry.

"I had two games with them and scored the winning goal in the second match," he said.

"They wanted me to come back after the Oceania qualifiers but I couldn't be guaranteed of getting a regular game."

Muscat has fully committed himself to Australia's Olympic campaign. By playing regularly again he will be in the best shape to provide maximum effort to the side.

Ken Murphy to coach Victoria



Former Socceroo Ken Murphy has been appointed coach of the Victoria State team for the remainder of the year. Murphy has taken over the position from Ian Dobson, who stood down because of his increased commitments as the new coach of Melbourne Knights. Dobson was in charge of the Victorian team for four matches in which they drew 2-2 with J-League side</

National Youth League



Morwell demolish North Geelong



BY ROY HAY

South Melbourne went to the top of the Victorian Division with a 4-0 win over the VIS on Sunday night, in a match which was switched to become the curtain raiser to the Ericsson Cup game between South and UTS Olympic.

The Blues were too strong for the VIS and Alex Duric gave them the lead after only five minutes.

Top scorer Michael Curcija added a second in 36 minutes. The same two players scored again in the second half and in addition Souths hit the woodwork three times for a convincing win.

Melbourne Knights jumped into second place after a 5-1 win over Springvale City. Branko Bacak grabbed two goals, while defenders Joey Rajher and Jason Vukadin continued their sequence of goalscoring. Tom Batur also contributed a goal. John Papettas was held scoreless for

SOUTHERN DIVISION RESULTS

FRIDAY 2 FEBRUARY

ALTONA MAGIC	1
(Borce Masalkovski)	

PORT MELBOURNE	1
(Arthur Vatsakis)	

SATURDAY 3 FEBRUARY

NORTH GEELONG.....	0
MORWELL FALCONS	9

Zoran Todorovski (5), Shaun Conkie (3), Adam Conkie

SUNDAY 4 FEBRUARY

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	5
Branko Bacak (2), Joey Rajher, Tom Batur, Jason Vukadin	

SPRINGVALE CITY.....	1
Eduardo Carlos	

VIS.....	0
SOUTH MELBOURNE	4

Alexander Duric (2), Michael Curcija (2)

WEDNESDAY 7 FEBRUARY

Melbourne Zebras v Green Gully

Heidelberg United v Bulleen

Springvale and Eduardo Carlos got their goal.

Altona Magic and Port Melbourne drew 1-1 at Paisley Reserve. It was a fairly low key game and

NEXT WEEK'S DRAW

ROUND 17

FRIDAY 9 FEBRUARY

Green Gully v Melbourne Knights (6.30pm, Green Gully Reserve)

SATURDAY 10 FEBRUARY

North Geelong v Heidelberg United (4.30pm, Elcho Park)

Morwell Falcons v Springvale City (4.30pm, Morwell Falcons Stadium)

SUNDAY 11 FEBRUARY

South Melbourne v Altona Magic (5.00pm, Bob Jane Stadium)

WEDNESDAY 14 FEBRUARY 1986

Bulleen v VIS (6.30pm, Veneto Club)

Port Melbourne v Melbourne Zebras (6.30pm, Murphy Reserve)

LEADING GOALSCORERS

MICHAEL CURCIJA	18	South Melbourne
VLAD BABIC	14	Green Gully
BRANKO BACAK	14	Melb. Knights
ZORAN TODOROVSKI	14	Morwell Falcons
JOHN PAPETTAS	14	Springvale City
BILL PETROVSKI	9	VIS

crowned a good game with the goal for Port.

Morwell Falcons overran North Geelong at Elcho Park on Saturday. Zoran Todorovski was able to deflect a header past Marko Saric after only three minutes and Shaun Conkie scored with a bullet-like shot in 36 minutes.

The killer blow came straight from the restart in the second half, when Saric could only parry a shot to Shaun Conkie for his second goal and Morwell's third.

With the wind behind it in the second half, North had been hopeful of getting back into the game. Ivan Biscan, substitute Martin Luburic, Tony Sobeck and stand-in striker Joey Didulica all came close but North could not buy a goal.

Zoran Todorovski was given too much space and added four more goals of his own, while the twins Adam and Shaun Conkie added another each, giving Shaun his hat-trick.

GLORY SECURE FIRST SPONSOR

BY RICHARD KREIDER



Perth Glory Pty Ltd has signed a three year deal with Umbro International, the kit supplier to the likes of Manchester United, Chelsea and World champions Brazil.

"The deal is quite substantial and it will include our new strip which will be purple and sunburst orange" said Glory General Manager Roger Lefort.

"Designs are already on the drawing board, and we hope to see the final product within 6-8 weeks,"

he said.

Meanwhile, as predicted in this column last year, the Lake Monger Velodrome is the favourite to become home of the Glory once

discussions with the state government are complete. Soccer Australia chairman David Hill approached the Premier of WA Richard Court at the official Glory launch last December, to seek assistance with the construction of a complex that was solely for soccer.

A \$5 million redevelopment program has been proposed to upgrade the complex which will include enlarging the pitch and improved enclosed seating for 12,000 spectators.

The Velodrome will then greatly assist the states chances of hosting one of the preliminary legs in the 2000 Olympics. Lefort said his company has also had discussions with the Western Reds Rugby League Club, but did not commit himself into saying the pitch might be shared.

The Glory also are hoping to start placing players on contract within the next few days. It is believed they have seven local players ready to sign following successful discussions with their current clubs.

AC UNITED



SOUTHERN DISTRICTS UNDER 13 MINOR PREMIERS DIVISION 1 1995

Proudly Sponsored by CROWN EQUIPMENT PTY. LTD.

BACK ROW: Terry Atsalakis, Charlie Monteleone, Damien Pepe, Tom Arcadi, Leo Mederos, Anthony Cutelli, Johnathon Stratis, Carlos Arango. MIDDLE ROW: Osvaldo Elali (Coach), Joe Pascazio, Tarek Madani, Giuseppe Ripepi, Adi Stanesco, Simon Ladelta, Lupco Najdoski, Michael Vagli, John Palmiano (Assistant Manager).

FRONT ROW: Gabriel Molina (Trainer), Omar Pepe (Manager). Absent: Joe Iurlo (Coach) & George Liapis.

The Under 13 team from AC United achieved their ultimate goal by winning the prestigious NSW Champion of Champions Competition for their age group. A total of five rounds were played against teams from other districts, the first being held in Dubbo.

This team, based at Wetherill Park, in the City of Fairfield, were also the Minor and Major Premiers in the Southern Districts competition. These boys played in the true spirit of soccer, with determination, skill and stamina. Their Club, coaching staff and players are to be congratulated on an excellent achievement.

Overwhelming interest in Ericsson Cup

BY JUSTIN BRASIER OF AAP

New Zealand consortium is one of 23 teams to have lodged applications to enter next season's national league.

Soccer Australia is not disclosing the names of the bidders apart from 12 clubs already in the Ericsson Cup and Perth, which has already been approved for next season.

But two former NSL clubs, the newly named Melbourne Warriors (formerly Heidelberg United) and Thomastown Zebras (ex-Melbourne SC), have revealed they have thrown their hats in the ring.

The Zebras have lodged a bid with the joint backing of AFL club Essendon.

It is unknown, however, whether reigning AFL premier Carlton has lodged an application.

Carlton previously had talks with Soccer Australia chairman David Hill about possible Ericsson Cup membership but Blues chief executive Stephen Gough indicated the club had lost interest.

Soccer Australia spokesman Scott Crebbin said a number of teams had requested that their bids remain confidential at this stage.

The present 12 team competition is likely to be expanded to either 14 or 16 clubs for the 1996-97 season.

Of the new applications there are five from clubs in Melbourne, three in Sydney, a Brisbane team and one from New Zealand.

Hill has had talks with the Auckland-based group but will weigh up whether the costs of transporting the team across the Tasman is viable.

Crebbin said the league was reluctant to admit too many new teams.

"Not only do we have to evaluate the strength of the teams, but also we have to evaluate how many clubs the league can support," Crebbin said.



DIABETES
AUSTRALIA
VICTORIA



TACKLE DIABETES



Victorian Premier League

**SPRINGVALE
CITY 5
FAWKNER 3**

BY DWYGH
TUFFNELL

Coming off a five goal hiding from Melbourne Warriors, Springvale City Vales bounced back to defeat Fawkner Blues 5-3 at Ross Reserve on Friday night.

Vales second home win of the season was down to some sloppy Fawkner defence and a hat-trick from David Grella.

Springvale was 3-1 with just 20 minutes gone with Andy Lancaster cancelling an early Tony Ujnovoski goal and Grella scoring twice.

Another Grella goal had given the Vales a 4-1 lead before another goal from Ujnovoski and one from Tony Schipano had brought the score back to 4-3 with 15 minutes left.

The home crowd endured some agonising moments as the Blues pushed forward in numbers with the possibility of at least one point to be salvaged.

Substitute Vinni De La Plaza eased Springvale's worries with a 78th minute strike.

Coach Gus McLeod felt that his side's inexperience nearly cost them what should have been an easy three points with the team being ahead 4-1 at one stage.

VALES: Dastey, Lettieri, Nolan, P. Grella (Papettas), Razzi, Spina (De La Plaza), McMinimee, McClenaghan, D. Grella, Lancaster (Rae), Rosa.

BLUES: Rados, Vassiliadis, Tramontana, Giordano, Schipano, Ferla, Recchia, Retre, Branov, Magnacca, Ujnovoski.

VOTES: 3 — McMinimee (Vales), 2 — D. Grella (Vales), 1 — Vassiliadis (Blues).

REFEREE: Gerry Connolly.

ROUND 4 RESULTS

Springvale City Vales 5
(D. Grella 3, Lancaster, De La Plaza) Fawkner Blues 3 (Schipano, Ujnovoski 2)
Bentleigh Greens 0 Sunshine Georgies 3 (Ferla, Nilo 2)

St Albans Saints 0 Green Gully Cavaliers 0
Thomastown Zebras 1 (Cuculevski) Box Hill Inter 0
Port Melbourne Sharks 1 (Psarros) Bulleen Lions 1 (White)
North Geelong Warriors 0 Melbourne Warriors 3 (Despotovski 3)
Albion Redsox 0 Altona Magic 3 (Radecki 2, Valkovski)

NEXT WEEKS DRAW

Victoria v JEF United
S.S. Anderson Reserve, Plummer Street, Port Melbourne
Kick Off 7.30pm
No Premier League matches due to State game.

Full ABSW votes and goalscorers in next weeks edition.

**BENTLEIGH 0
SUNSHINE 3**

BY NICK
GIANNAKOPOULOS

Newly promoted Bentleigh Greens are finding their stay in the top flight too hot to handle as they were given a football lesson by an experienced Sunshine Georgies.

Robbie Ferla opened the scoring in the third minute with a free header in the six yard box giving goalkeeper Peter Laumonts no chance.

The Georgies increased their lead five minutes before half-time when Juan Nilo pounced onto a defensive blunder by letting fly with a low drive into the bottom left hand corner.

In the 59th minute Bentleigh almost pulled one back as a Lee Lutton chip was cleared off the goal line.

Nilo put the result beyond doubt as he weaved his magic by exchanging passes with Chris Daglaras and finishing off with a drive leaving Laumonts flat footed.

GREENS: Laumonts, Drakos, Micheil, Crivari, Kourkoutzelos, Theoharous, Caffrey, Alagiozidis, Lutton, Baker (Kotsopoulos), Charalambous (Constantinou).

GEORGIES: Wardle, Makris (De Bono), Kanesoulis, Cesar, Ferla, Dragicevic, Field, Aretis, Nilo (Tsitsikas), Daglaras, Markovski (M. De La Plaza).

REFEREE: Vince Celestino.

VOTES: 3 — Nilo (Georgies), 2 — Ferla (Georgies) 1 — Alagiozidis (Greens).

**ST ALBANS 0
GREEN GULLY 0**

BY JOHN RIGAS

Three disallowed goals and one send off, were the main features in this fixture that generated any interest which turned out

T A B L E

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
HEIDELBERG UTD	4	4	0	0	16	2	12
ALTONA MAGIC	4	4	0	0	9	1	12
SUNS. GEORGIES	4	4	0	0	8	1	12
NT.GEE.WARRIORS	4	2	1	1	6	6	7
BENT.GREENS	4	2	0	2	2	4	6
SPR.CITY VALES	4	2	0	2	9	12	6
GR. GULLY CAV.	4	1	2	1	4	6	5
THOMAST. ZEBRAS	4	1	2	1	5	5	5
ST ALB. SAINTS	4	1	1	2	5	6	4
BULLEEN LIONS	4	0	2	2	5	7	2
FAWKNER BLUES	4	0	2	2	4	7	2
PT. MELB. SHARKS	4	0	2	2	4	10	2
BOX HILL INTER	4	0	1	3	3	8	1
ALBION REDSOX	4	0	1	3	1	8	1

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
SPR. CITY VALES	4	3	0	1	18	5	9
THOMAST. ZEBRAS	4	3	0	1	13	6	9
BENT. GREENS	4	3	0	1	11	7	9
BULLEEN LIONS	4	3	0	1	7	5	9
PT.MELB.SHARKS	4	2	1	1	9	4	7
BOX HILL INTER	4	2	1	1	6	4	7
HEIDELBERG UTD	4	2	0	2	13	10	6
ALBION REDSOX	4	2	0	2	9	12	6
GR. GULLY CAVAL.	4	1	2	1	8	5	5
SUNS. GEORGIES	4	1	1	2	6	9	4
FAWKNER BLUES	4	1	1	2	4	12	4
ST. ALB. SAINTS	4	0	3	1	3	5	3
ALTONA MAGIC	4	0	1	3	5	12	1
NT. GEE.WARRIORS	4	0	0	4	2	18	0

THOMASTOWN 1 BOX HILL 0

BY NICK TZAVERIS

The Thomastown Zebras won their first game of the season after downing Box Hill Inter by a lone goal in front of a carnival like crowd at Partridge Reserve.

Young attacker Nick Cuculevski grabbed the only goal after easily heading past Sean Keogh within 40 seconds of the resumption.

The Zebras asserted their control after an even first half and called upon Inter goalkeeper Sean Keogh to make a hat-trick of first class saves late in the game.

Danny Gnjic twice found Keogh in resilient mood, firstly from a header and then a shot, before Keogh expertly kept out a veering Klaus Bichler freekick.

Ransford Banini was forced from the field after straining his groin and will miss Saturday night's state game, while Inter's new striker, Peter Petrakos, went off the field after injuring his ankle.

INTER: Keogh, Pansino, D. Tartaglia, Frezzini, Guscic, Dal Ben, Petrakos (Chirico), Inglesi (Castro), Roodhouse, Di Iorio, Guliemi.

ZEBRAS: Raponi, Banini (Angelovski), Della Rocca, Emmanuel, Gnjic, Lazarevski, Bichler, Iacovitti, Cuculevski, Lingurovski, Ngata.

REFEREE: Nestor.

Zachariadis.
VOTES: 3 — Keogh (Inter), 2 — Emmanuele (Zebras), 1 — Lazarevski (Zebras).

ALBION 0 ALTONA 3

BY LUKE BUTTIGIEG

Altona Magic remain unbeaten with a crushing 3-0 rout of Albion Redsox, setting up a block buster round five clash with Melbourne Warriors.

Young attacker Nick Cuculevski grabbed the only goal after easily heading past Sean Keogh within 40 seconds of the resumption.

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REFEREE: Nestor.

off for second bookable offence.

Altona rallied valiantly for 20 minutes, but Radecki, pouncing on a Rusmir through ball, easily ran around a diving Brian to score his second goal of the evening.

Substitute Henry Velkovski, just 11 minutes after coming on, continued Brian's horror match, when he provided a carbon copy of Radecki's second goal seven minutes later.

REDSOX: Brian, Grimaud, Ciantar (Vesnaver), Cubitt (sent off), Lucchesi, Wilson, Collins, McGeachey, Gurpinar, Geri, Donnelly.

MAGIC: McGrath, Atanasovski (Velkovski), Tasevski, Markovski, Runje, Emsovski, Radecki, Georgopoulos, Bevincovski (Madarovski), Rusmir, Micevski.

REFEREE: Jim Markovski.
VOTES: 3 — Rusmir (Magic), 2 — Radecki (Magic), 1 — Emsovski (Magic).

PORT MELB. 1 BULLEEN 1

BY MICHAEL
ZAPPONE

Port Melbourne Sharks and Bulleen Lions have produced some epic battles in the past and this was no different as they were involved in a titanic display.

Bulleen were in control in the opening stanza and it came as no surprise when they took the lead.

Striker Dale White scored a sensational goal when he met the ball on the half volley, on the edge of the box, his powerful strike found the net in the 41st minute.

After controlling early play, Albion conceded the first goal after 28 minutes, when Nick Radecki headed a Sava Rusmir corner past Redsox keeper Robert Brian.

Craig Cubit's return to Conner Reserve took on nightmarish proportions five minutes after the interval, when he was sent

full back Con Argyriou created the goal as his pass to Peter Psarros, who was on hand to put the ball into the bottom left — hand corner.

SHARKS: Pappas, Argyriou, Dimitrellos, Chalmers, Haitas, Svigos, Palamaras, Bell, Psarros, Strapalias (Kotzagianidis), Mitroulias

REFEREE: Steve Kralavski.

VOTES: 3 — Karapatsos (M. Warriors), 2 — Despotovski (M. Warriors), 1 — Vlahos (M. Warriors).

RECORDED

RESULTS SERVICE

0055 38887

SUNDAY

MATCH RESULTS

SERVICE

◆ Premier League

◆ State League Div. 1

◆ Provisional

League Divisions 4&5

(Updated by 6.30pm each Sunday evening)

0055 38878

SATURDAY

MATCH RESULTS

</div

Victorian TRUE BLUE Bloods

For South Melbourne there's just no place like home!

By Greg Blake

South Melbourne's new Bob Jane Stadium home was declared a graveyard for visiting clubs even before the ground was opened earlier this season.

And while West Adelaide decided to spoil the opening day party it should come as no surprise that the Blues have since fortified the castle walls and made the place their own.

Of all the current Ericsson Cup clubs none enjoy a run on home turf more than South Melbourne — and that's official, according to this exclusive ABSW 'Border Wars' part two chart.

The Blues are the best there is within the confines of their own home state, whether at the famous and now sadly demolished old home at Middle Park, Olympic Park, the new home or on 'tour' at places like Morwell, Somers Street and Olympic Village.

The Victorian club stands head and shoulders above the rest when it comes to defending state pride.

As we showed last week in part one, life on away trips is hell for Ericsson Cup interstate travellers.

The logical follow-on is to consider just how decided is 'home advantage', and whether clubs do perform markedly better both on home grounds and within home state territory.

Does it then stand to reason that sides are far

more comfortable in the familiar surrounds of home base?

Most clubs are better performed at their own home grounds than they are on the road, but does it follow that the shorter the away trip the more likely a positive result?

On the basis of these figures it appears that is the case, with all but four of the current National League teams

boasting 50 percent or better records inside home state territory.

And that appears to mean an obvious advantage to clubs in NSW and — at least until this season — Victoria.

Both NSW and Victorian clubs have usually boasted anything up to five 'away' games a season within home state boundaries.

In contrast, Adelaide

and Brisbane teams, as we showed last week, have suffered through tiresome interstate travel on a regular basis since the NSL began in 1977.

A factor that will no doubt test the spirits of the league's newest club from Perth next season, when away games in the Ericsson Cup will take on a whole new dimension in travel troubles.

Notwithstanding the

fact that UTS Olympic is a very good side this year, the lessened interstate travel is obviously to the liking of David Ratcliffe's charges.

Olympic has played 13 of its 17 games thus far inside NSW, going 9-4-0 on home territory as compared to the club's 1-1-2 record interstate.

Note the contrast for Brisbane Strikers, just about the worst per-

formed road team in the Ericsson Cup and yet rated overall second-best of the current clubs when it comes to games in steamy Queensland.

This year the Strikers must travel outside home territory more times than any other team.

Brisbane is 6-1-1 at home and only 2-5-2 interstate, which suggests the Strikers season will be as much determined by its travel schedule as playing ability.

The league's only Queensland based side is the second best performed team on home state territory, joining South Melbourne, Adelaide City and Marconi — ironically the league's longest-serving trio of clubs — as teams which win in excess of six of every 10 games played on home turf.

At the other end of the scale are Newcastle Breakers, the only current Ericsson Cup team which, at least statistically, performs better away from its home territory.

This second exclusive ABSW chart includes the home state games record of every current Ericsson Cup club since the competition commenced in 1977 up to the end of round 17 this season.

League games only (ie no finals or cup matches) are included in the totals.

To tell you who wins regularly on home soil, we show you ABSW's exclusive 'Border Wars' part two chart.

In Defence of Home Territory

Total all-time home State record for every current Ericsson Cup team

TEAM & STATE	P	W	D	L	SUCCESS IN %
SOUTH MELBOURNE (Victoria)	337	187	81	69	67.51
BRISBANE STRIKERS (Queensland)	59	31	11	17	61.86
ADELAIDE CITY (South Australia)	284	137	77	70	61.80
MARCONI FAIRFIELD (New South Wales)	388	183	101	104	60.18
SYDNEY UNITED (New South Wales)	252	117	65	70	59.33
UTS OLYMPIC (New South Wales)	368	167	98	103	58.70
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS (Victoria)	230	111	46	73	58.26
MORWELL FALCONS (Victoria)	59	21	17	21	50.00
WEST ADELAIDE (South Australia)	233	88	42	103	46.78
CANBERRA COSMOS (ACT)	13	4	4	5	46.15
WOLLONGONG CITY (New South Wales)	315	101	81	133	44.92
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS (New South Wales)	67	15	21	31	38.06

LEAGUE AVERAGE HOME STATE STRIKE-RATE — 54.46

Tables based on all Ericsson Cup home and away results from 1977 up to and including round 17 of the 1995/96 season (not including cup, top 4/5 or finals matches).

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Australian & British
SOCCER WEEKLY

Melbourne Knights



JOE SPITERI



WOMEN'S WRITES

BY JANENE MAR



BENEFICIAL SOCCER MERGER IN NNSW

Twenty years of isolation for women's soccer in Northern New South Wales came to an end last month when associations from Newcastle to the Queensland border voted overwhelmingly to dissolve the their Federation and merge with the Northern NSW Soccer Federation.

This makes NNSW only the second behind New South Wales to bring the administration of both men's and women's football under the one management at a time when such a move is being encouraged.

It should be noted that soccer in the whole administrative State of NSW is split into two parts. However close co-operation exists between the respective administrations.

General Manager of the Northern NSW Soccer Federation, Garry Screen welcomed the move saying that the decision gives the Federation the opportunity to enhance the excellent work, previously carried out by Women's Soccer NNSW, under one banner in the State.

Margaret Fulham, then President of WSNNSW was enthusiastic about the merger saying, "It is a decision which makes us one of the most progressive states."

Now we can concentrate on the real business of developing the game for all. Our elite players can look forward to greater access to the coaches currently working within the NSWSF structure. Our coaches will have greater development opportunities, and our club players may find themselves better off financially."

NSW ITC READY FOR '96

After a summer program of intensive technical and physical training, the NSW ITC moves into 1996 in readiness for a big new season.

Non-residential athletes have now returned to their respective clubs.

With the support of company Athlete Management Services and the traditional networks in place, every component of athlete development is being addressed.

Additional to the three training sessions a week, players have already been placed on a strength and conditioning program, psychological skills training and are about to embark on work with a professional sprint coach.

Measuring success in the developing player can sometimes be difficult, but

the Women's State League (WSL) in which the ITC squad competes continues to offer an important benchmark for its players. With the extra commitment and support, expectations have risen dramatically.

At an average age of Under 16 last year, the squad needed a boost of experience, something now achieved with the signing of OAP member Katrina Boyd and National Youth player Gill Thomson.

The revitalised Boyd has expressed the need for the intensive training to achieve her ambitions, whilst also assisting the younger squad members.

The staff of coach Tony Walmsley, Assistant coach Leigh Wardell, Manager/

Development coach Debbie Fisher, and Goalkeeper coach Ron Jackson remain from 1995 and will now be supported by former international Carol Vinson, making a return to the football scene.

The ITC will also be setting the trend with their bright new playing strip which will include players' names on the back.

Included in the side's pre-season match schedule is the big clash this Saturday against the older ACT ITC squad in Wollongong.

In preparation for what promises to be a spirited contest, the team takes on champions Marconi tomorrow (Wed) at Valentine Park, Meurants Lane, Gledwood at 7.00pm.

ACT ITC v NSW ITC

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10

5.30pm (prior to Socceroos v Japan)
BRANDON PARK, Squires Way, Fairy Meadow

ACT ITC

Colours: Green/blue/gold

1 Tory Turner
2 Dior Foxhill
3 Sacha Wainwright
4 Amanda Butler
5 Danica Ralston
6 Amy Taylor
7 Amy Wilson
8 Angie Bean
9 Karly Pumpa
10 Cindy Doyle
11 Danielle Hepperlin
12 Melissa de Ryck
13 Sam Sheedy
14 Peta-Claire Hepperlin
15 Felicity Cox
16 Tracy Fluoro
18 Amy Beattie

Coach:

Chris Tansey

Assistant Coach:

Steve Hoszowski

Scholarship Coach:

Katrina Alexander

Physiotherapist:

Ed Hollis

Sports Trainer:

Bob Rayner

NSW ITC

Colours: Sky blue/Navy blue

1 Karen Lawes
2 Bronwyn Boland
3 Gill Thomson
4 Maria Calligas
5 Ranae Bevan
6 Bridget Harries
7 Joanne Peters
8 Kelly Golebiowski
9 Katrina Boyd
10 Nicole Davis
11 Lisa Collins
12 Amanda Boyle
13 Danielle Clarke
14 Danielle Smith
15 Sandra Stavrou
16 Cassandra Kell

Tony Walmsley

Leigh Wardell

Sports Trainer:

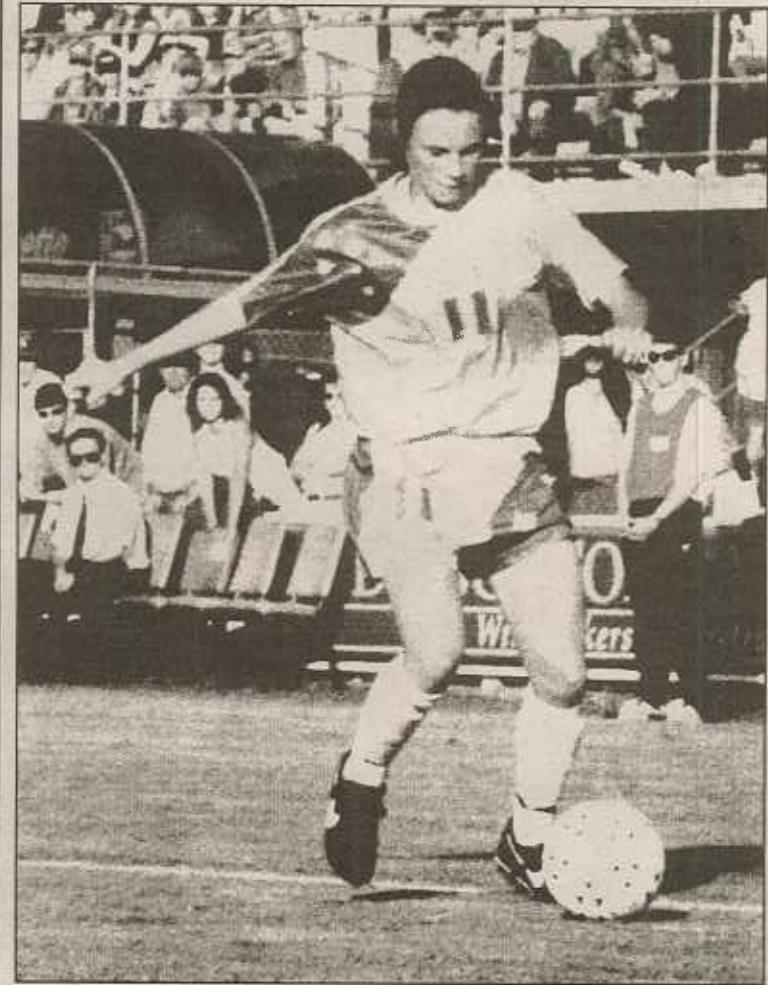
Ron Jackson

Manager:

Debbie Fisher

PLAYER FACTS

- Joanne Peters -
OAP Squad, NSW



Nickname	Joey
Date of Birth	March 11, 1979
Birthplace	Young, NSW
Height	169cm
Naturally left or right footed	Left
Position	Centre midfield
Club	NSW ITC
Occupation	Yr 12 Student
No. of brothers/sisters	1 brother, 1 sister
When/why started soccer	Age 5 — My brother played and parents said to give it a go.
Previous clubs	Harden-Murrumburrah, Leeton Utd, Sylvania Heights, Sydney Olympic NSW CHS 92-94; Aust CHS 93-94 (only played 94); NSW U/16 92-93; NSW U/19 93-94; NSW Open 95; Aust U/16 93; Aust U/19 93-94; Aust OAP Squad 96.
Rep Honours	Alison Foreman Winning Dallas Cup 1995 Gianfranco Zola (Parma, Italy) My dad's Nissan Pintara Strawberries, pasta Oasis
Most difficult opponent	Pearl Jam, Powderfinger, Stone Temple Pilots, Techno Melrose Place, soccer
Soccer highlight	Tom Hanks, Bruce Willis Surfing, playing guitar, listening to music
Favourite player	A new surfboard
Car I drive	Trained with Pele
Favourite food	Eddie Vedder (Pearl Jam)
Favourite drink	To get in the Australian first eleven, to play professionally
Favourite music	Banana roll, juice
Favourite TV	No superstitions, but I like to listen to 'hyped' music to psych myself up
Favourite actor	Consistency
Hobbies	Not looking at target before shooting most times
First thing I'd buy if won lottery	Against Marconi last season
Most famous person met	USA
Person most like to meet	
Soccer ambitions	
Pre-match meal	
Pre-match superstitions	
Best aspect of my game	
Worst aspect	
Best goal scored	
Atlanta Olympics prediction	

WOMEN PLAYERS WANTED

Belmore Hercules

ALL AGES TRIALS

Lees Park, Croydon Park
Wednesday, February 7
6.30PM

Phone Alan Milligan on
(02) 533 5410 (AH) for details

Aussies retain trophy

The Australian Schoolgirls returned from their tour of New Zealand on Australia Day after a well-earned victory over the New Zealand U/17 team, thus retaining the Deane Low Trophy.

The Australians remained undefeated over their five tour matches with four wins and a draw.

Australian Schoolgirls 1 Auckland U/170

Australian Schoolgirls 8 Bay of Plenty Rep Team 0

Australian Schoolgirls 4 Auckland U/170

Australian Schoolgirls 0 Auckland Schoolgirls 0

Australian Schoolgirls 2 (Carly Copeland 2) New Zealand U/171 (T O'Neil)

The Aussies went into the clash well prepared but with several injury worries including ace striker Carly Copeland.

New Zealand opened strongly in the first 15 minutes before Australia were able to mount any attacks.

The lively Peta Shirlaw cut down the left, threading a lovely ball to substitute Copeland who stepped inside one defender before slamming the ball past the keeper in the 33rd minute.

The Aussies controlled the match for the rest of the half. A minute before the break, the visitors were awarded a free kick 30 metres out. Copeland stepped up and drove the ball fiercely past the Kiwi wall into the far top corner of the net.

New Zealand came out blazing and were rewarded when a poor goal kick was intercepted in midfield. Charging forward, O'Neil slotted her shot past the diving Joanne Butland.

The Aussies were then put under a great deal of pressure, stopping them from adding to their tally.

YOUTH PLAYERS IN CAMP

Assembling in Melbourne this Sunday for the five-day Australian U/21 Training Camp will be the younger members of the newly-named OAP and Train-On Squads.

It will be an important first gathering for Australia's future hopefuls since the recent announcement of the squads. National coach Tom Sermanni and his assistants will be able to assess players' initial commitment and progress.

Performance under match conditions will also be judged with the match scheduled for February 14 against a Victoria Select Team.

ITALY's Serie A & B

TABLES

SERIE A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milan	20	12	7	1	32	13	43
Fiorentina	20	11	5	4	34	20	38
Parma	20	10	8	2	31	17	38
Lazio	20	9	5	6	40	24	32
Juventus	20	9	5	6	30	21	32
Vicenza	20	7	8	5	20	18	29
Napoli	20	7	8	5	22	21	29
Roma	20	7	7	6	25	21	28
Inter	20	6	8	6	24	18	26
Udinese	20	7	5	8	24	28	26
Sampdoria	20	6	7	7	29	30	25
Atalanta	20	7	4	9	23	32	25
Cagliari	20	7	3	10	17	29	24
Placenza	20	6	4	10	21	36	22
Torino	20	4	9	7	21	31	21
Padova	20	5	3	12	22	33	18
Bari	20	4	5	11	30	44	17
Cremonese	20	2	7	11	23	32	13

SERIE B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cesena	22	9	7	6	29	20	34
Verona	22	9	7	6	24	20	34
Pescara	22	9	6	7	28	28	33
Ancona	21	10	2	9	32	26	32
Perugia	22	8	8	6	27	23	32
Bologna	22	7	11	4	19	15	32
Reggiana	22	8	7	7	21	21	31
Genoa	22	8	6	8	34	31	30
Palermo	22	6	12	4	16	17	30
Venezia	22	7	9	6	18	20	30
Cosenza	22	6	11	5	25	23	29
Brescia	22	7	6	9	27	24	27
Salernitana	22	6	9	7	19	17	27
F. Andria	22	6	8	8	24	25	26
Lucchese	21	5	11	5	19	22	26
Avellino	22	7	5	10	24	30	26
Foggia	22	6	8	8	17	24	26
Reggina	21	6	8	7	21	29	26
Chievo V.	22	4	13	5	19	19	25
Pistoiese	21	3	8	10	18	27	17

RESULTS

SERIE A

Cagliari	.....0	Fiorentina	.....0
Cremonese	.....2	Udinese	.....2
Lazio	.....4	Bari	.....3
Milan	.....3	Roma	.....1
Parma	.....1	Sampdoria	.....0
Piacenza	.....1	Inter	.....0
Torino	.....2	Padova	.....0
Vicenza	.....2	Juventus	.....1
Napoli	.....2	Atalanta	.....0

SERIE B

Ancona	.....3	Foggia	.....0
Avellino	.....2	F. Andria	.....1
Bologna	.....0	Salernitana	.....0
Brescia	.....1	Lucchese	.....1
Chievo V.	.....2	Reggina	.....0
Cosenza	.....1	Verona	.....2
Palermo	.....1	Pescara	.....1
Perugia	.....2	Reggiana	.....1
Pistoiese	.....0	Genoa	.....0
Venezia	.....1	Cesena	.....0

Parma move level with Fiorentina



Giuseppe Signori: Put away Lazio's second hat-trick in as many games.

Iberian striker George Weah scored his first goal since returning from the African Nations Cup to help AC Milan extend its lead to five points over rivals Fiorentina and Parma.

Milan disposed of Roma 3-1, while Fiorentina was held to a goal-less draw by Cagliari and Parma benefitted from Sampdoria defender Alessandro Lammonica's own goal to win 1-0.

Weah, who had a disappointing African Nations Cup, opened the scoring in the sixth minute. Roma, without its international strikers Abel Balbo and Daniel Fonseca through illness and injury, struck back immediately through midfielder Francesco Moriero.

Milan's Montenegrin striker Dejan Savicevic scored in the 55th minute and young defender Christian Panucci assured Milan of victory in the 85th minute.

Former world footballer of the year Roberto Baggio sounded the only sour note for the Milan

team. Substituted in the second half by coach Fabio Capello, he ran straight to the dressing room.

Fiorentina's 0-0 draw away at Cagliari was its second successive draw and allowed Parma to draw level on points.

Gabriel Batistuta, Fiorentina's top scorer, had a bad day all round. His main rival for top league marksman, Bari's Igor Protti, scored twice in their 4-3 loss to Lazio for whom Giuseppe Signori scored a hat-trick - Lazio's second in two matches.

Protto raised his total to 16 for the season, two ahead of Batistuta.

Asprilla deal called off



Faustino Asprilla: "Flattered at interest shown by Newcastle."

Pedraneschi insisted the agreement had been reached.

problems and want a large reduction in the original transfer sum. But we have medical documentation which says the opposite."

He maintained Parma had drawn up and signed a valid deal and that the Italian club would be taking the matter up with FIFA's transfer commission to obtain a ruling from world football's ruling body.

Asprilla himself, who watched Parma's game from the stands, said he was "flattered at the interest shown by Newcastle, but in view of the circumstances, I'm happy to stay at Parma".

Keegan had last week insisted the deal was still on.

Opposite number Nevio Scala said he was happy enough for Asprilla to stay as was now "probable", adding he "will help us on our way to the league title".

NEWS FROM AROUND THE GL



BE

PORTO LEAVE IT LATE

Benfica maintained its distant challenge to runaway Portuguese league leader Porto last Sunday, but its slim 1-0 win over Estrela da Amadora was marred when visiting defender Joaquim Rebelo suffered a fractured skull.

Rebelo was hurt in a collision with Benfica striker Marcelo Cipriano shortly before the interval and taken to hospital. Doctors said he was out of danger but would remain in hospital.

One minute after the start of the second half, Benfica's Angolan striker Alves Paulao scored the only goal of the match after a cross from substitute Daniel Kenedy.

Benfica stays in second place with 46 points, but 11 behind leader and reigning champion Porto.

Boavista, which beat Chaves 2-0 at home with first half goals from Romanian-born winger Ion Timofte and Croat striker Zoram Ban, is third with 44 points.

Porto, still unbeaten this season, left it late in its home match against lowly Leca before two goals in the final 10 minutes gave it victory.

Leca was reduced to 10 men in the 35th minute when defender Nelson Alfaia was sent off for a foul against striker Domingos Oliveira, but Porto still had difficulty breaking through the visitors' well-organised defence.

By the time Hungarian midfielder Peter Lipcsei scored its first goal in the 81st minute, the home fans had begun to jeer their team.

Top league scorer Domingos hit home the



Jean-Marc Bosman: Court ruling in his favour has far-reaching implications.

second five minutes from the end to take his tally for the season to 22.

UEFA AND EU IN STAND-OFF

The European Commission said last week there was no chance of a gentleman's agreement to allow Europe's soccer powers to ignore a court ruling on nationality of players.

European Union employment commissioner Padraig Flynn said he had

told officials of UEFA that the organisation must allow total freedom of movement for European nationals and end fees for out-of-contract players.

Flynn told a news conference UEFA had accepted the European Court of Justice's ruling of December 15 in a case brought by Belgian footballer Jean-Marc Bosman, but that "the problem was one of different interpretation".

UEFA has been pressing to continue applying its three-plus two rule, which limits teams to fielding a maximum of three foreign

players and two "assimilated players", in European competitions until the end of the season.

But Flynn said that would clearly violate the Bosman ruling and added clubs that ignored the rule would be protected by law.

EU competition commissioner Karel Van Miert repeated his threat to impose fines on UEFA if it did not comply with the Bosman ruling. On January 19, the commission gave them six weeks to come into line.

Van Miert offered to work with UEFA to try to come up with a scheme to

replace the existing transfer fee system.

UEFA is worried small clubs in national football associations stand to lose lucrative transfer fees if they can't sell out-of-contract players.

Van Miert told the news conference UEFA had been urged to consider instead a system "based on solidarity, devised to encourage and enhance young players".

He did not advocate a specific solution but said money could be used from television rights.

"It cannot be based on compensation for individual players...that is out of the question," Van Miert said.

One scheme being considered by UEFA is a "farm system", whereby bigger clubs would sponsor smaller ones and up-and-coming players could work their way through the ranks.

Although the Bosman ruling addressed only transfers between clubs in different European Union countries, Van Miert said the question would have to be addressed for players moving within countries as well.

CHINA INTO ASIAN CUP FINALS

Fan Zhiyi and Wei Qun struck in the second half as China beat Hong Kong 2-0 last Sunday to earn a berth in the Asian Cup finals to be held in December in the United Arab Emirates.

Fan scored in the 50th minute and Wei in the 89th to notch up China's third straight victory in the Group 2 qualifying tournament, which included the Philippines and Macao.

Hong Kong finished with two wins and one loss.

Macao beat the winless Philippines 5-1 for third place.

Only the winner in each of the 10 qualifying groups will join host UAE and defending champion Japan in the 11th Asian Cup finals.

SPANISH FIRST DIVISION

Teenager Raul Gonzalez scored a great goal and then set up another last Sunday as defending champion Real Madrid beat Betis 4-2 in Spanish soccer, while Barcelona drew 1-1 at Rayo Vallecano to stay second.

Real hung on to sixth place with 42 points, 16 behind first-division leader Atletico de Madrid, by playing bold and aggressive soccer in coach Arsenio Iglesias' debut at Santiago Bernabeu stadium.

Earlier in the day, Real's general meeting approved new club president Lorenzo Sanz to finish out the three-year term of his predecessor Ramon Mendoza.

Real came out attacking as defender Manuel Sanchis scored his first of the season in the seventh minute from the top of the area.

Betis looked about to steal the game when Real defenders let Yugoslav international Vlada Stosic in for a 28th-minute goal and misjudged an attack by Alfonso Perez that put Betis ahead 2-1 in the 34th.

But Danish midfielder Michael Laudrup set up the 19-year-old Gonzalez to even the score in the 40th minute. Real went ahead 15 minutes later as Laudrup hammered a pass to Gonzalez on the right wing, who centered hard to Chilean striker Ivan Zamorano for an easy goal.

Real's Argentine midfielder Fernando Redondo scored the insurance goal in the 81st minute.

In Madrid, Jose Miguel "Aquin" Lopez fired a long, left-footed shot to put Rayo Vallecano ahead of Barcelona in the 37th minute. Ivan de la Pena's equaliser in the 77th minute kept Barcelona second with 47 points.

Espanyol stayed in third place with 47 points - trailing Barcelona on goal aggregate - after a scoreless draw against Real Sociedad, which remains 10th with 34 points.

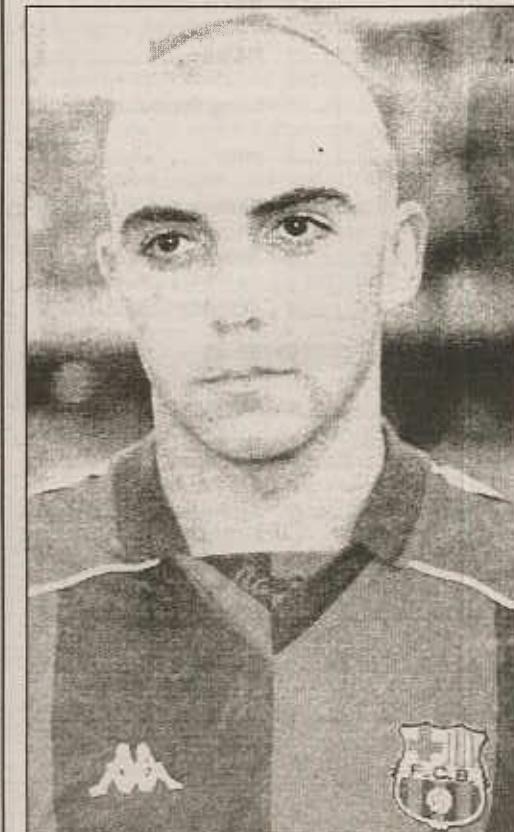
Atletico Madrid moved closer to the Spanish First Division title with a hard-fought 2-1 win over Sporting Gijon after goals from Milinko Pantic and Jose Luis Caminero.

Pantic had the league leader on its way after 25 minutes and Caminero wrapped up the three points on 68, although the home fans had to sweat out the final quarter of an hour after Igor Lediakhov scored from the spot after 72 minutes.

Valencia suffered a blow to its UEFA Cup aspirations as it crashed 4-1 at Zaragoza.

Gustavo Poyet set the ball rolling with the first on 26 minutes and, although Jose Galvez netted the equaliser on 67, Valencia's Fernando Morientes blasted a quick-fire hat-trick in the final 20 minutes.

In other games, Oviedo beat Athletic de Bilbao 1-0, Compostela beat Merida 2-0, Valladolid had a 1-0 home win against Salamanca, Deportivo drew with Tenerife 1-1, Celta also drew with Albacete 2-2; and Racing de Santander beat Sevilla 1-0.



Ivan de la Pena: Spain Youth international scored vital goal for Barcelona in 1-1 draw.

1996 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP

Heroes welcome for Tunisia team

Tunisians reserved a heroes' welcome to the country's national soccer players when they returned last Sunday after unexpectedly reaching the African Nations' Cup final won by South Africa.

President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali, who ordered that a popular welcome be organised for the team, greeted the players at Tunis-Carthage airport and thousands of people welcomed the team in a noisy celebration in central

"Heroes, thanks for these excellent and honoring results by reaching the final. This is in itself a victory," Ben Ali told the team.

For the first time in 31 years, Tunisia reached the final of the continent's most popular competition where it was beaten 2-0 by South Africa.

The young Tunisian team was not favoured to get past the opening round in South Africa.

Under an official escort

and aboard a truck draped with Tunisian flags, the team paraded in the capital's main streets which erupted into a roar of hooting and shouting as crowds poured to catch a glimpse of their heroes.

"It is an exceptional welcome," Polish-born coach Henry Kasprzak said. "The team reached new heights in South Africa. We never thought we would reach the final."

"We were saying that if our team passes the opening

round, it would be good. Surprisingly, it reached the finals. This is more than an exploit. God is greatest," Mondher Jibiani, head of sports news at Television channel 21 said.

"We are proud of them for having defended so well the Tunisian flag," he added.

Celebrations are not exempt from some bitterness expressed by the media who blamed the Ugandan referee Charles Massembe for the defeat against South Africa.

"The Ugandan referee was doubtful," said the government newspaper La Presse which accused him of favouring South Africa.

But all newspapers predicted that the Tunisian team now had a rosy future.

Kasprzak picked young players for South Africa with an eye to gaining experience for future competitions as well as a bid for a place at the Olympics Games in Atlanta later this year.

"Tomorrow will be better," La Presse said.



1998 WORLD CUP



European Qualifying Matches

GROUP 1

Denmark, Greece,
Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia

1996:

April 24	Greece	v	Slovenia
Sept 1	Greece	v	Bosnia
Sept 1	Slovenia	v	Denmark
Oct 9	Denmark	v	Greece
Oct 9	Bosnia	v	Croatia
Nov 9 or 10	Slovenia	v	Bosnia
Nov 10	Croatia	v	Greece

1997:

March 29	Croatia	v	Denmark
April 2	Croatia	v	Slovenia
April 2	Bosnia	v	Greece
April 30	Denmark	v	Slovenia
April 30	Greece	v	Croatia
June 8	Denmark	v	Bosnia
Aug 20	Bosnia	v	Denmark
Sept 6	Croatia	v	Bosnia
Sept 6 or 7	Slovenia	v	Greece
Sept 10	Denmark	v	Croatia
Sept 10	Bosnia	v	Slovenia
Oct 11	Greece	v	Denmark
Oct 11	Slovenia	v	Croatia

GROUP 2

Italy, England, Poland
Georgia, Moldova

1996:

Sept 1	Moldova	v	England
Oct 5	Moldova	v	Italy
Oct 9	Italy	v	Georgia
Oct 9	England	v	Poland
Nov 9	Georgia	v	England
Nov 10	Poland	v	Moldova

1997:

Feb 12	England	v	Italy
March 29	Italy	v	Moldavia
April 2	Poland	v	Italy
April 30	England	v	Georgia
April 30	Italy	v	Poland
May 31	Poland	v	England

June 7	Georgia	v	Moldova
June 14	Poland	v	Georgia
		(to be confirmed)	
Sept 10	England	v	Moldova
Sept 10	Georgia	v	Italy
Sept 24	Moldova	v	Georgia

Oct 7	Moldova	v	Poland
		(to be confirmed)	
Nov 11	Italy	v	England
Nov 11	Georgia	v	Poland

The nine group winners and the best runner-up qualify for the finals in France. The other eight runners-up will be drawn into pairs for playoffs with the playoff winners qualifying for the finals in France.

GROUP 3

Norway, Switzerland, Finland,
Hungary, Azerbaijan

1996:

June 2	Norway	v	Azerbaijan
Aug 31	Azerbaijan	v	Switzerland
Sept 1	Hungary	v	Finland
Oct 6	Finland	v	Switzerland
Oct 9	Norway	v	Hungary
Nov 10	Switzerland	v	Norway
Nov 10	Azerbaijan	v	Hungary

1997:

April 2	Azerbaijan	v	Finland
April 30	Norway	v	Finland
April 30	Switzerland	v	Hungary
June 8	Finland	v	Azerbaijan
June 8	Hungary	v	Norway
Aug 20	Finland	v	Norway
Aug 20	Hungary	v	Switzerland
Sept 6	Switzerland	v	Finland
Sept 6	Azerbaijan	v	Norway
Sept 10	Hungary	v	Azerbaijan
Sept 10	Norway	v	Switzerland
Oct 11	Finland	v	Hungary
Oct 11	Switzerland	v	Azerbaijan

GROUP 5

Russia, Bulgaria, Israel,
Cyprus, Luxembourg

1996:

Sept 1	Israel	v	Bulgaria
Sept 1	Russia	v	Cyprus
Oct 8	Luxembourg	v	Bulgaria
Oct 9	Israel	v	Russia
Nov 10	Cyprus	v	Israel
Nov 10	Luxembourg	v	Russia
Dec 14	Cyprus	v	Bulgaria
Dec 15	Israel	v	Luxembourg

1997:

March 29	Cyprus	v	Russia
March 30	Luxembourg	v	Israel
April 2	Bulgaria	v	Cyprus
April 30	Israel	v	Cyprus
April 30	Russia	v	Luxembourg
June 8	Bulgaria	v	Luxembourg
June 8	Russia	v	Israel
Aug 20	Bulgaria	v	Israel
Sept 7	Luxembourg	v	Cyprus
Sept 10	Bulgaria	v	Russia
Oct 11	Cyprus	v	Luxembourg
Oct 11	Russia	v	Bulgaria

GROUP 8

Romania, Ireland, Lithuania, Iceland,
Macedonia, Liechtenstein

1996:

April 24	Macedonia	v	Liechtenstein
June 1	Iceland	v	Macedonia
Aug 31	Liechtenstein	v	Ireland
Aug 31	Romania	v	Lithuania
Oct 5	Lithuania	v	Iceland
Oct 9	Iceland	v	Romania
Oct 9	Ireland	v	Macedonia
Nov 9	Liechtenstein	v	Liechtenstein
Nov 10	Ireland	v	Iceland
Dec 14	Macedonia	v	Romania

1997:

March 29	Romania	v	Liechtenstein
April 2	Lithuania	v	Romania
April 2	Macedonia	v	Ireland
April 30	Romania	v	Ireland
April 30	Liechtenstein	v	Lithuania
June 7	Ireland	v	Liechtenstein
June 7	Macedonia	v	Iceland
June 11	Iceland	v	Lithuania
Aug 19	Liechtenstein	v	Iceland
Aug 20	Ireland	v	Lithuania
Aug 20	Romania	v	Macedonia
Sept 6	Liechtenstein	v	Romania
Sept 6	Iceland	v	Ireland
Sept 6	Lithuania	v	Macedonia
Sept 10	Romania	v	Iceland
Sept 10	Lithuania	v	Ireland
Oct 11	Ireland	v	Romania
Oct 11	Iceland	v	Liechtenstein
Oct 11	Macedonia	v	Lithuania

GROUP 6

Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia,
Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands

SCHEDULE

TO BE ANNOUNCED ON
FEBRUARY 16

GROUP 7

Netherlands, Belgium, Turkey,
Wales

Cantona's character has changed for better

IF comments from French national soccer manager Aimé Jacquet are to be believed, then Eric Cantona only has an outside chance of playing in the European championships in England this summer.

He ignored the claims of Cantona and fellow England-based colleague David Ginola of Newcastle for France's friendly against Portugal last month, and seems unlikely to change his plans just four months before the tournament starts.

But if Jacquet was at Selhurst Park, or when he sees a video of Cantona's inspirational two-goal performance in Manchester United's 4-2 premier league win over Wimbledon, he may be persuaded to think again.

Returning to the scene of the infamous kung fu-style attack, the Cantona of February 1996 was a very different man from the one of January 1995.

Leading by example, Cantona scored with a header after 70 minutes and then a penalty 11 minutes later as United beat a battling Wimbledon side to



keep alive its chances of a third English league title in four seasons.

While his sublime skills have never been questioned, Cantona's temperament has. It has blighted his career with a succession of disciplinary hearings, bans, fines and suspensions that reached their nadir following the events of last January, which led to his expulsion from the game for eight months.

But since his return, he has been a new man, as his club manager Alex Ferguson explains.

"He's always been a quiet person, and he's still quiet, but what's happened to him has been the kind of experience that can't help but have an effect on your life," Ferguson said.

"They say even a bad experience can be good for you and maybe some good

has come out of it.

"Perhaps his attitude to injustice has been altered. Since he came back into the team there have been refereeing decisions he has not agreed with, but he's chosen not to argue."

"I've seen him walk quietly away from incidents that might have drawn a different reaction before."

Cantona's attitude is so different he has not been booked in the 21 games he has played since his return in October. The two goals he scored last Saturday took his tally to five in the last six games. He also skippered the side, taking over when Steve Bruce went off injured after only 14 minutes.

Former United great George Best, who knew a thing or two about the darker forces of soccer and nature, was full of praise for Cantona after Saturday's performance.

"It was a difficult situation for him to go back to, but today he proved what he is best at. He was exemplary," Best said.

Cantona was also praised for his mature composure a fortnight ago when he acted as peacemaker as tempers

flared between other players during United's match at West Ham.

Ferguson admits Cantona is not yet quite back to his imperious best, but there is no doubt he is on the way.

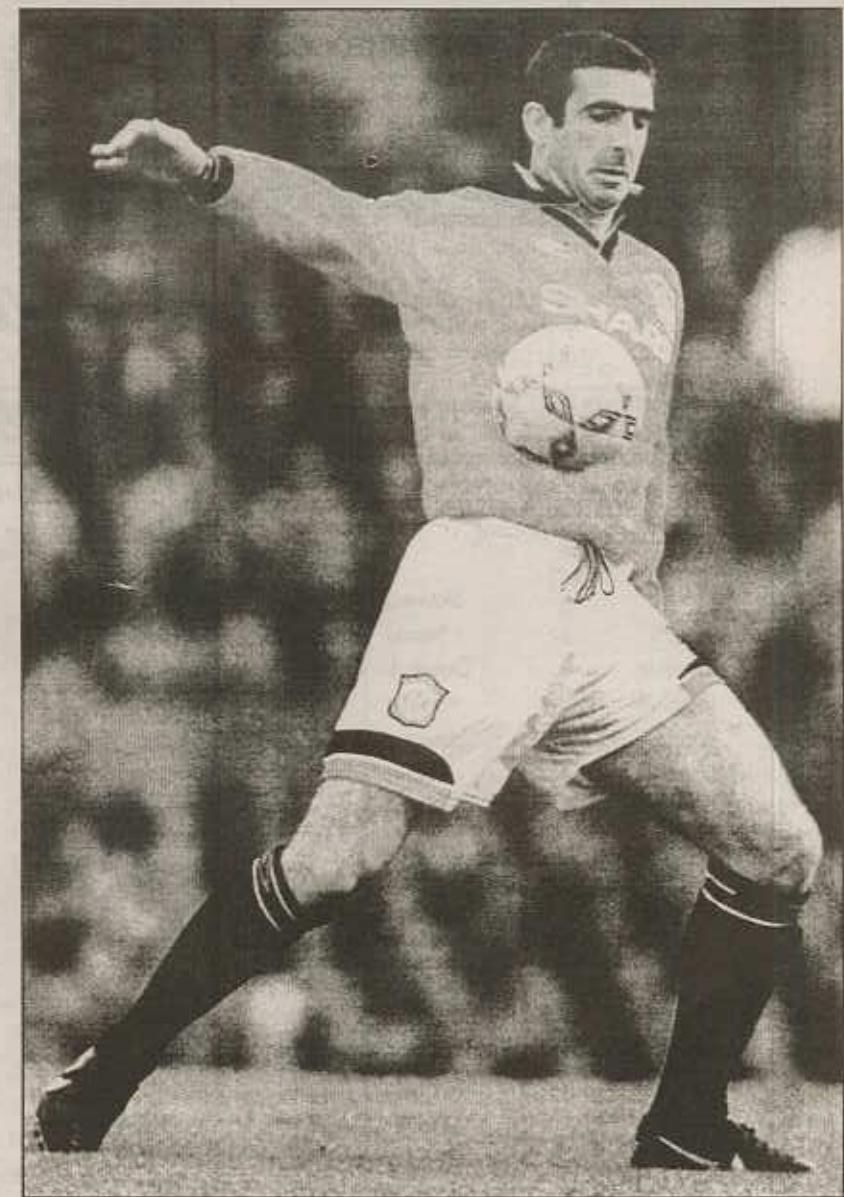
"He's been magnificent in training," says Ferguson, "just like he always has, ever since he came here. It's been difficult for him. But when he gets his consistency back, his best form will be back too."

Cantona will be 30 in May and could arguably play at the top level for another half-a-dozen years. But as befits a man who paints, likes poetry, nature and philosophy, his future career could be a long way from soccer.

He has made his big-screen debut in a film called *Le Bonheur est dans le Pre*, or *Happiness Is In The Meadow*, which has already taken \$A10.21 million at the box office in France.

Actress Sabine Azuma, who co-stars in the film, said:

"Eric could definitely have a career in films after he has finished playing football. He is a lovely, gentle and elegant man and a very good actor who could be one of the best in France."



Eric Cantona: Loves painting, poetry, nature and philosophy. His future could be a long way from soccer.



Croatian Corner

BY JOHN VISKOVICH



SOLDO WANTED BY SEVILLE

Seville officials have once again contacted Croatia Zagreb in an effort to sign Zvonimir Soldo.

Soldo who has played three full matches for Croatia's national team is very highly rated by Seville and they want him in Spain as soon as possible.

Director of Croatia Zagreb Mr Zajec has said "Seville will have to wait at least three months and then Soldo will be able to go to Spain, till then he plays for Croatia Zagreb."

Rumour has it that the deal has been signed but Soldo has to wait to honour his contract with Zagreb which is for those three months.

Soldo will link up with former Croatia Zagreb playmaker Josko Jelecic at the Spanish club but will miss Davor Suker who has left Seville for Real Madrid.

ELVIS IS ALIVE

Elvis Brajkovic the No.4 of Munich 1860 has had a rapid rise in his soccer career.

Playing for Rijeka in Croatia he was drafted into the Croatia team in 1994 to face giants Italy in Palermo.

The right back didn't disappoint and he was clearly man of the match even though it was Davor Suker who scored two goals in the 2-1 win.

The phone in the Rijeka soccer club ran hot with everyone asking how much Rijeka wanted for this virtually unknown player.

The club settled on the offer from German club Munich 1860.

Now Elvis is a star at his German club and is holding a regular spot in the Croatia team squad.



Dario Simic: Tipped to be in Croatia senior squad.

HAJDUK GO Bosnian

Hajduk Split have signed another defender this time Bosnian Sead Halilovic.

The former Dinamo Zagreb libero had an unhappy time in Spain with Rayo Vallecano where he rarely played for the first team.

Halilovic is guaranteed a first team spot at Hajduk with Aussie Steve Horvat making way for him.

Hajduk already have two Bosnian backs in Hibic and Ceko and Halilovic is now the third.

All three Bosnians have represented Croatia at international level but now all three are most likely to represent Bosnia Herzegovina.

TWO YOUNGSTERS TIPPED FOR 22 MAN SQUAD

Dario Simic and new signing Tomislav Rukavina of Croatia Zagreb are tipped to be the youth players in the Croatia team squad of 22.

Simic who was hotly chased by AC Milan a month ago is proving a big star at only 20 and deserves his chance in the senior side after representing the Under 21 side for Croatia.

Rukavina on the other hand is another 20 year old midfielder who has rave reviews in the Croatian media.

He is a great player and he and Dario will benefit from training with the likes of Bilic, Prosinecki and Boban in England for Croatia.

One player who will miss out is Milan Rapacic of Hajduk Split who was regarded as a certainty a year ago.

He has been out of form all year because of personal reasons.

IN BRIEF...

Alen Boksic is rumoured to be heading to Newcastle United from Lazio. Robert Prosinecki could have joined Blackburn but wanted to stay in Spain as he doesn't like the English style of soccer.

Josip Weber of Anderlecht is another name linked with Hajduk Split the veteran wants to be part of Hajduk but only if they make the Champions Cup. If not Weber will head to England where Chelsea are said to be keen to sign him when he becomes available.

While Marko Viduka was in Australia his fellow Croatia Zagreb team-mates were in the USA and Canada. First for a brief holiday in



Josip Skoko: Finding it difficult to settle in Split.

Disneyland then to Canada for friendlies.

Hajduk Split is still talking to Nikola Jernan (Real Oviedo), Adrian Koznik (Cannes) and Ante Mise (Vittese Arnhem) on a possible move.

The "Bandits" already have Asanovic and hope Vučević from Barcelona also comes back.

Torino have just signed Cameroon international Augustin Semo but he is not there to replace Karic at the club. The Cameroonian is at the club to partner the Croat up front.

Mass Sarr of Hajduk Split played well and scored a cracker goal for Liberia in the just

completed championships.

Sarr has become such a big name after partnering Weah of Milan for Liberia that if Hajduk were to sell him they could get at least 10 million for him.

However the Liberian loves Split and doesn't want to go, nor does the club want such a talent to leave.

Australian international Steve Horvat of Hajduk Split could well become a left back at the club because Hajduk is signing other centre backs for this season.

Horvat has played more matches for Hajduk this season than any other player at the club.

So it's important they keep him in the first eleven to honour his efforts.

Young Socceroo Josip Skoko has had a nightmare at Hajduk and has failed to settle.

The officials say he has potential but he is not ready for the Croatian league because you have to be able to run the full game.

Skoko keeps breaking down which isn't his fault because he is not used to professional soccer and he is young.

Red Star Belgrade have issued Hajduk Split an invitation to play a friendly in Belgrade. Under full security.

The match could take place but the surprise is the fans who want the match to take place. The fans used to love derby matches when Partizan, Red Star, Hajduk and Dinamo would play against each other in the old Yugoslavia.

No final answer yet but it seems that Hajduk also miss the old games and could accept.



News FROM AROUND THE GLBE

SUSPENDED SENTENCE FOR INTERNATIONAL

Former German international Maurizio Gaudino was handed a two-year suspended prison sentence last Wednesday for his role in a car insurance scam.

The 29-year-old midfielder, who spent much of last season on loan to English Premier League side Manchester City, must also pay a fine of \$A162,000 split between five charities.

Gaudino, currently on loan from Eintracht Frankfurt to Mexican side America, was implicated in three affairs across 1992 and 1993 concerning the disappearance of cars which their owners then listed as missing in order to claim insurance.

The state prosecutor had asked for a 28-month jail term, saying Gaudino, a member of Germany's 1994 World Cup squad, had a duty to set an example to young people.

AJAX CONTINUE SLIDE

Continuing its dismal form in 1996, Ajax Amsterdam last Tuesday crashed out of the Dutch Cup, losing 2-0 to second division Cambuur Leeuwarden.

Ajax has won just one match this year, also against Second Division opposition in the last round of the cup.

"Cambuur played a very good, daring game," Ajax coach Louis van Gaal said.

Cambuur's reward was a quarter-final cup tie against Sparta Rotterdam.

BARCELONA HELD BY MINNOW

Barcelona was held to a 2-2 draw by third division giant-killer Numancia last Thursday in the first leg of their Spanish Cup quarter-final.

Numancia, which has already knocked three first division sides out of the Cup this season, went ahead after only two minutes when Kike Alonso slipped his markers to head home a corner.

Numancia could have gone further ahead as it was roared on by 12,000 delirious fans, the home club's biggest crowd in its history.

But Johan Cruyff's side came out strongly in the second half, Juan Carlos Moreno equalising in a counter-attack just after the break and putting his side ahead when he finished off a fine move on the right by Croatian playmaker Robert Prosinecki shortly afterwards.

With Numancia tiring, Barcelona had opportunities to seal the tie. But the first division side was caught out at the back just two minutes from the final whistle when Jose Movilla robbed international defender Josep Guardiola and lobbed over goalkeeper Carlos Busquets.

The return leg is in two weeks time in the Nou Camp stadium.

ARSENAL MANAGER TO SIGN UP

Manager Bruce Rioch answered speculation about his Highbury future by insisting he will stay with English Premier League club Arsenal.

Rioch's failure to sign a four-year contract eight months



Staying at Arsenal: Manager Bruce Rioch with star players David Platt (left) and Dennis Bergkamp.

ago has led to speculation he might soon be on his way out.

Expectations raised by transfer swoops for Dennis Bergkamp and David Platt have cooled with Arsenal sliding out of the league title race and then crashing from the F.A. Cup against First Division Sheffield United.

But it is through to the League Cup semi-finals and Rioch said: "I have an excellent working relationship with my chairman.

"I don't need a contract to work with anyone. I believe a handshake to be a binding agreement anyway. When I was at Bolton I didn't sign a contract for a year."

Rioch admitted there were sticking points to be resolved before he puts pen to paper but said he was determined to ensure the contract was word-perfect.

"Contracts are not as simple as some people make them out to be,"

he said. "It is important for the contract to be right with both parties. When it is, it will be signed."

FRENCH CUP PROVIDES UPSETS

Giant-killers prevailed last Saturday in French soccer as seven first division clubs, including Nantes, Bordeaux, St Etienne and Metz, crashed out of the French Cup.

Three clubs from the equivalent of the third division triumphed over top-flight clubs, with Nimes pulling off one of the wins of the day by beating St Etienne 3-1.

Toulon, twice behind against Bordeaux, came through in extra time to win 3-2 and little Thouars reached the last 16 of the cup for the first time in its history when it beat Martigues 1-0, also in extra time.

Three other first division clubs lost at home to second division sides, the biggest surprise coming in Metz where the team challenging Paris St Germain for the title lost to second division leader Caen 1-0.

To add insult to injury, the goal was scored by Metz midfielder Frederic Arpinon when he turned the ball into his own net seven minutes after halftime.

Cannes went down by the same score to Sochaux and Nice also lost at home to Laval by the only goal of the game, missing a penalty before going under in extra time.

French champion Nantes lost 5-4 on penalties at home to Monaco after a thrilling match, the only tie between sides from the upper flight, after a 2-2 extra time scoreline.

Nantes led at halftime thanks to a goal from Reynald Pedros, but Enzo Scifo took the match into extra time with a headed equaliser in the second half and gave his team the lead with a penalty before Laurent Guyot levelled with the final kick before the whistle.

Nantes led 2-0 on penalties after keeper Eric

Loussouarn saved Monaco's first two efforts. But Monaco's Stephane Porato did even better, saving three times to give his team victory.

Record Cup winner Marseille, went through easily with a 2-0 win away to Pontivy.

Paris St Germain was equally untroubled, beating second division Angers 2-0 with goals from Bruno N'Gotty and Rai, who converted a late penalty.

Only five first division teams have reached the last 16 so far, although two more could do so. Montpellier's match against Istres and Le Havre's against Blendon were postponed because of bad weather conditions.

TITLE RACE TIGHT IN SCOTLAND

England midfielde Paul Gascoigne scored both goals as Rangers remained on course for their eighth successive Scottish title with a 2-1 win at Partick Thistle.

But Walter Smith's side was far from convincing in beating the home side, which ended up with only nine men.

Partick scorer Rod McDonald was sent off 12 minutes into the second half. He fouled Rangers defender John Brown then said something to the referee.

In the last minute, Partick midfielder Billy McDonald was also given his marching orders after aiming a kick at Gascoigne.

Gascoigne could have had a hat-trick as he hit a post after 20 minutes — but made no mistake when opening the scoring with a superb solo effort seven minutes later.

Partick fought back and levelled after 34 minutes from a McDonald volley, but two minutes after that Gascoigne grabbed his second with a vicious drive.

Rangers moved on to

59 points, one ahead of Celtic which came from behind to beat Hibernian 2-1 with goals from Dutch striker Pierre van Hooydonk, his 20th of the season, and Paul McStay, his first for Celtic in 58 matches.

Second-placed Celtic is 21 points clear of third-placed Hearts, 2-0 winner over Raith, as it keeps the pressure on Rangers in the search for its first championship since 1988.

CLOSED DOORS GAME ON CARDS FOR BRUM

English First Division club Birmingham will have to play a home game behind closed doors if its fans step out of line once more this

year. The club was found guilty by the Football Association last Thursday of two misconduct charges arising from November's home game against Millwall.

Fans seated above the Millwall supporters were alleged to have thrown objects. Later some Birmingham fans encroached onto the pitch and Millwall claimed substitute Dave Savage had been punched as he warmed up.

F.A. spokesman Steve Double said: "Having taken into account a plea in mitigation and the advances made by the club in recent years, it was decided Birmingham be ordered to play one home match behind closed doors.

"This penalty has been suspended until December 31 but will be enforced in the event of any serious incidents of misconduct involving Birmingham or their supporters either at home or away."

Top clubs to meet with UEFA

European soccer's governing body (UEFA) last Thursday issued a list of 33 top clubs whose officials have been invited to a rare and crucial summit this week to discuss the future of the sport.

The meeting will focus on a controversial European court ruling on foreign players and transfers; the future of European competitions and pressure for a Super League; coordination of cramped international schedules and televised broadcasts of European tournaments.

Representatives of the 12 most powerful national associations - Austria, Belgium, England, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Russia, Scotland, Spain and Sweden - are due to attend the day-long talks.

Each national association will be accompanied by a maximum of three club representatives.

UEFA rarely talks directly to club managers and executives, preferring instead to deal with national association officials.

But the soccer authority is anxious to accommodate the big clubs and deflect criticism in the wake of the European court's so-called Bosman ruling. This ordered clubs in European Union nations to abolish its restrictions on the number of non-nationals from EU countries and to end the well-established transfer system.

The transfer part of the ruling affected only players whose contracts had expired and were citizens of EU member nations.

UEFA refused to implement the ruling before the end of the season, incurring the threat of EU legal action.

Some of the top clubs want to field more than the three foreigners currently allowed by UEFA rules.

Teams like AC Milan, Barcelona and Manchester United are also pressing for a Super League, which would be more prestigious and lucrative than the Champions Cup, the Cup Winners Cup and the UEFA Cup.

The invitees are:

Austria: Casino Salzburg, Rapid Vienna.

Belgium: RSC Anderlecht, Bruges, Standard Liege.

England: Arsenal, Liverpool, Manchester United.

France: Paris St. Germain, Auxerre, AS Monaco.

Germany: Werder Bremen, Bor. Dortmund, Bayern Munich.

Italy: AC Milan, Juventus, Inter Milan.

Netherlands: PSV Eindhoven, Ajax, Feyenoord.

Portugal: Benfica, Porto.

Russia: Spartak Mos., Dinamo Mos., Spartak Vladivostok.

Scotland: Aberdeen, Celtic, Rangers.

Spain: Real Madrid, Atletico Madrid, Barcelona.

Sweden: IFK Goteborg, Malmo.

High honour for Bobby Robson



20,000 Irish supporters who applauded their opponent's goals and sang cheerfully as their team was crushed 3-0 in gale-force winds and driving rain.

Tommy Coughlin, president of Ireland's largest supporters' association, received a plaque engraved with the words: "To the Irish supporters, the best in the world!"

The Portuguese were impressed by the

WORLD RESULTS & TABLES

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Arsenal 1 (Bergkamp 24th minute)	Coventry 1 (Whelan 23rd). Halftime 1-0.	Attendance 35,623.
Aston Villa 3 (Yorke 11th and 23rd, Wright 62nd)	Leeds 0. 2-0. 35,982.	
Blackburn 3 (Shearer 12th, 83rd and 89th)	Bolton 1 (Green 29th). 1-1. 30,419.	
Liverpool 0 Tottenham 0. 40,628.	Manchester City 2 (Clough 25th, Symons 50th)	
Queen's Park Rangers 0. 1-0. 27,509.	Newcastle 2 (Ferdinand 54th, Clark 90th)	
Newcastle 2 (Ferdinand 54th, Clark 90th)	Sheffield Wednesday 0. 0-0. 36,567.	
Sheffield Wednesday 0. 0-0. 36,567.	Southampton 2 (Watson 46th, Magilton 77th)	
Southampton 2 (Watson 46th, Magilton 77th)	Everton 2 (Stuart 52nd, Horne 56th). 0-0. 15,136.	
Everton 2 (Stuart 52nd, Horne 56th). 0-0. 15,136.	West Ham 1 (Slater 19th) Nottingham Forest 0. 1-0. 21,257.	
West Ham 1 (Slater 19th) Nottingham Forest 0. 1-0. 21,257.	Wimbledon 2 (Gayle 68th, Euell 76th) Manchester United 4 (Cole 41st, Perry 45th-own goal, Cantona 70th and 81st-penalty). 0-2. 25,380.	
Wimbledon 2 (Gayle 68th, Euell 76th) Manchester United 4 (Cole 41st, Perry 45th-own goal, Cantona 70th and 81st-penalty). 0-2. 25,380.	Chelsea 5 (Peacock 29th, 38th, 55th, Spencer 31st, Furlong 52nd) Middlesbrough 0. Halftime 3-0. Attendance: 21,060	

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

Barnsley.....2	Watford.....1
Grimsby.....1	Derby.....1
Huddersfield.....1	Tranmere.....0
Ipswich.....2	West Bromwich.....1
Leicester.....1	Luton.....1
Sheffield United.....2	Oldham.....1
Southend.....2	Millwall.....0
Wolverhampton.....3	Sunderland.....0
Charlton.....0	Crystal Palace.....0
Norwich.....1	Birmingham.....1
Port Vale.....P	Stoke.....P
Reading.....0	Portsmouth.....1

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

Blackpool.....1	Hull.....1
Bournemouth.....2	Wycombe.....5
Brentford.....1	Burnley.....0
Brighton.....2	Wrexham.....2
Bristol Rovers.....2	Walsall.....0
Chesterfield.....3	Swansea.....2
Crewe.....P	York.....P
Notts County.....1	Peterborough.....0
Rotherham.....1	Oxford.....0
Shrewsbury.....1	Bradford.....1
Stockport.....P	Bristol City.....P
Swindon.....2	Carlisle.....1

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

Barnet.....1	Scunthorpe.....0
Bury.....P	Hereford.....P
Cambridge.....0	Gillingham.....0
Cardiff.....3	Doncaster.....2
Darlington.....2	Leyton Orient.....0
Hartlepools.....1	Rochdale.....1
Lincoln.....0	Colchester.....0
Mansfield.....0	Northampton.....0
Plymouth.....4	Chester.....2
Scarborough.....0	Exeter.....1
Torquay.....2	Fulham.....1
Wigan.....0	Preston.....1

LEADING GOALSCORERS

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

30 - Alan Shearer (Blackburn)
24 - Robbie Fowler (Liverpool)
Les Ferdinand (Newcastle)
20 - Teddy Sheringham (Tottenham)
19 - Ian Wright (Arsenal)
15 - Tony Yeboah (Leeds)
14 - Dwight Yorke (Aston Villa)
13 - Dion Dublin (Coventry)
Chris Armstrong (Tottenham)

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

20 - Pierre Van Hooydonk (Celtic)
17 - Gordon Durie (Rangers)
14 - Ally McCoist (Rangers)
Paul Wright (Kilmarnock)
12 - John Collins (Celtic)
11 - John Robertson (Hearts)
Darren Jackson (Hibernian)
Billy Dodds (Aberdeen)
10 - Paul Gascoigne (Rangers)

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Celtic.....2	Hibernian.....1
Falkirk.....4	Kilmarnock.....2
Hearts.....2	Raith.....0
Motherwell.....P	Aberdeen.....P
Partick.....1	Rangers.....2

SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE

Airdrieonians.....P	Clydebank.....P
Dundee United.....1	St Johnstone.....3
Dunfermline.....P	Dundee.....P
Greenock Morton.....P	Hamilton.....P
St Mirren.....5	Dumbarton.....0

SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO

Ayr.....1	Stenhousemuir.....1
East Fife.....1	Clyde.....1
Montrose.....1	Berwick.....2
Stirling.....4	Queen of the South.....1
Stranraer.....1	Forfar.....0

SCOTTISH DIVISION THREE

Albion.....P	East Stirling.....P
Alloa.....0	Ross County.....4
Arbroath.....1	Queen's Park.....1
Caledonian.....1	Cowdenbeath.....2
(Played at Cowdenbeath)	

Livingston.....0	Brechin.....1
SCOTTISH FA CUP THIRD ROUND	

Motherwell.....0	Aberdeen.....2
(Aberdeen away to Stirling in the fourth round)	

Clydebank.....0	Stirling.....1
(Stirling at home to Aberdeen)	

Dumbarton.....1	Airdrieonians.....3
(Airdrieonians at home to Forfar)	

Falkirk.....0	Stenhousemuir.....2
(Stenhousemuir at home to Caledonian or East Fife)	

Hamilton.....0	St Johnstone.....1
(St Johnstone home to Greenock Morton or Montrose in fourth round)	

Hearts.....1	Partick.....0
(Hearts away to Kilmarnock)	

Clyde.....3	Dundee.....1
(Clyde home to Rangers)	

FRENCH LEAGUE CUP QUARTER-FINALS

Cannes.....1	Le Havre.....0
Guingamp.....1	Marseille.....0
Lyon.....1	Monaco.....0
Niort.....0	Metz.....2

FRENCH CUP SECOND ROUND

— February 3 —

Poissy.....0	Strasbourg.....0
</tbl_info

1996 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP

SEMI-FINALS

TUNISIA 4 ZAMBIA 2

Unfancied Tunisia continued to surprise by downing Zambia 4-2 in their semi-final.

Tunisia equalled its best-ever performance in the African Cup — in the 1965 final, Tunisia lost 3-2 to Ghana after extra-time.

Sellimi opened the scoring in the 15th minute after a superb move.

Striker Mehdi Slimane shrugged off two defenders to cross from the by-line, and Sellimi got the faintest of touches to guide the ball inside James Phiri's right hand post.

Then on 28 minutes, Beya put Tunisia further ahead with his second goal of the tournament.

He struck a perfect free-kick from the left into the top right hand corner of Phiri's goal.

Just before the first goal, Zambia's Dennis Lota missed a great chance to put his side ahead.

Kalusha Bwalya, the tournament's top scorer with five, fed Lota on the right, but Tunisian keeper Chokri El Ouaer blocked the shot.

Just after half-time, Godhbane lobbed 'keeper Phiri from 25 metres to put Tunisia three goals up and effectively ensure victory for the north African side.

The Zambians rallied and pulled a goal back in the 68th minute. A shot by Bwalya cannoned off the chest of El Ouaer and Lota, following up, steered the ball into the net.

Then, Elijah Litana brought down Mehdi Slimane with four minutes to go, and Sellimi scored his second from the spot to restore the three-goal gap.

Zambia's Hilary Makasa rounded off the scoreline in the second minute of time added on, with a scorching long range drive.

SOUTH AFRICA 3 GHANA 0

John Moshoeu continued his goalscoring spree to propel South Africa to a crushing 3-0 win over Ghana in the semi-final at Soccer City last Wednesday.

The Turkish-based midfielder scored a spectacular overhead kick in the 22nd minute to open the scoring and then put the seal on a fine individual performance with a breakaway goal two minutes from time.

It brought his tally for the tournament to four and put South Africa in the final on its debut performance.

In between, Shaun Bartlett



John Moshoeu (left) and captain Neil Tovey of the victorious South Africa.

3RD PLACE PLAY-OFF

ZAMBIA 1 GHANA 0

Ten-man Zambia took third-place at the African Nations Cup tournament last Saturday after an opportunist goal by Joel Bwalya.

Goalkeeper Simon Addo made several crucial saves and South Africa midfielder Eric Tinkler rattled the Black Stars' woodwork with a driving free-kick.

With striker Kalusha Bwalya unable to increase his five-goal tally, it was left to his midfield namesake to earn victory in the 52nd minute.

Zambia was reduced to 10 men in the 68th minute when John Lungu was sent off for a second bookable offence by bringing down Ablade Kumah.

Zambia played many previously unused players and Ghana did not field Leeds United's Anthony Yeboah, with coach Ismael Kurtz preferring Ibrahim Tanko up front.

Yeboah intercepted Radebe's square pass and raced away to goal, only to shoot wide.

Ghana peppered Zambia's

woodwork in the first 20 minutes — Ablade Kumah hit Davies Phiri's righthand post and Charles Akonnor struck the other.

Then Ghana's Yaw Acheampong saved on the line from Andrew Tembo, before Felix Aboagye skied the ball over the bar seconds before half-time.

Zambia's goal came out of the blue. Joel Bwalya hit a shot from 20 metres past the diving Phiri to put Zambia, which has reached three of the last four semi-finals, in the driving seat.

Zambia played many previously unused players and Ghana did not field Leeds United's Anthony Yeboah, with coach Ismael Kurtz preferring Ibrahim Tanko up front.

Substitute striker Mark Williams scored two goals within a minute in the second half last Saturday to give South Africa a 2-0 victory and

South Africa 2

FINAL

SOUTH AFRICA 2 TUNISIA 0

The cacophony of horns, whistles, singing and shouting wilted slightly as the second half opened without a score, but the stadium erupted when South Africa scored two goals in as many minutes by substitute Mark Williams 15 minutes before the final whistle and moments after he had come onto the field.

"The crowd was unbelievable — they're worth the two goals we scored," coach Clive Barker said afterwards. "I'll be afraid to play away from South Africa after this. We've been spoilt."

The crowd waited for Mandela to present the cup before heading out to what promised to be an all-night celebration.

Before the start of the African championship series on January 13, soccer's controlling body, FIFA, ranked South Africa 10th on the continent and 40th in the world.

SEMI-FINALS

In Durban: Tunisia bt Zambia 4-2 (halftime 2-0)

Scorers:

Tunisia - Adel Sellimi (16m, 85m pen), Zoubeir Beya (30m), Kais Kodhbane (47m)
Zambia - Dennis Lota (68m), Hilary Makasa (90m)

Attendance: 6,000

In Johannesburg: South Africa beat Ghana 3-0

(halftime 1-0)

Scorers: John Moshoeu (22nd, 87th), Sean Bartlett (46th)

Attendance: 65,000

3RD PLACE PLAY-OFF

In Johannesburg: Zambia 1 Ghana 0 (half-time 0-0)

Scorer: Joel Bwalya (51st min)

Attendance: 75000

FINAL

In Johannesburg: South Africa 2 Tunisia 0

Scorers: Mark Williams (73rd and 75th minutes)

Attendance: 75,000

the championship in its first African Cup of Nations tournament.

Williams replaced Phil Masinga in the 65th minute and eight minutes later he completed a series of headers off a Doctor Khumalo free kick to finally beat Tunisian goalkeeper Chokri el Ouaer and send the packed crowd into a screaming, flag-waving frenzy.

A minute later, Khumalo's pass sent Williams in on the left side and his left-footed strike found the far corner behind a diving el Ouaer, setting off non-stop dancing and singing.

It was the first victory for a southern African side in the African Cup, being played for the 20th time since the inaugural tournament in 1957.

The FNB Stadium on the edge of the Soweto black township was almost full hours before the final. Streets outside were packed with jubilant South Africans who danced and shouted while making their way inside.

Unlike other soccer matches in South Africa, several thousand whites mixed with the predominantly black crowd, showing the success of Mandela's efforts to use sport to break down racial barriers in the former apartheid state.

A tense first half produced few scoring chances, with South Africa coming closest with a Shaun Bartlett header off John Moshoeu's cross that hit the crossbar. Khumalo had a clear shot that he struck weakly to el Ouaer, while Tunisian attackers

Mehdi Slimane and Adel Sellimi threatened with speedy runs but managed few clean chances at the South African goal.

Ugandan referee Charles Massembe kept tight control, issuing a yellow card to each side in the opening 45 minutes and refusing to be swayed when the crowd howled for a penalty after Masinga fell from a tackle in the penalty area.

When Williams came on, South Africa pressed the attack and Khumalo took a free kick from the left that went off two heads to el Ouaer, who knocked the ball to the side. Sizwe Motaung then chipped the ball to Williams for the header that broke the deadlock.

Before the final, a colourful closing ceremony, highlighted by a South African Airways jumbo jet that buzzed the stadium with the team's nickname, Bafana Bafana (Boys Boys), written on the bottom, saw flag-bearing delegations from each nation march on the field around a huge South African flag amid music and dancing.

Mandela, wearing the No.9 jersey of South African captain Neil Tovey, arrived with Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini, cultural leader of the nation's largest tribe, and they received deafening cheers when they walked across the pitch, waving and smiling.

By making the final, South Africa continued its string of sports successes since the end of apartheid-era bans after the nation's first all-race election in 1994 brought Mandela to power.

CONFUSION FOLLOWS BAN

Nigeria's reaction to being banned from the African nations cup was utter confusion last week, with different officials either accepting the punishment or protesting in anger. The African Football Confederation (CAF) banned the Nigerians until the end of the century for pulling out of this year's tournament, over claims their players' security was not guaranteed in South Africa.

NFA president General Emeka Omeruah condemned the punishment.

"We will protest strongly to the president of the CAF, Issa Hayatou," the Nigerian news agency NAN quoted Omeruah as saying in Lagos.

But just hours earlier, downcast federation member Adegbeye Onigbinde spoke in South Africa of a sad day for Nigeria and Nigerian football, describing the ban as "a tough blow."

He added: "The Nigerian association accepts this punishment because we know what we were exposed to because of our withdrawal."

The Nigerians had been widely tipped to retain their African title. But they now face a worldwide ban, which would hit their 1998 World Cup campaign, although FIFA has yet to confirm this.

Jubilation in South Africa

Noisy jubilation erupted in the streets of South Africa's biggest black township last Saturday minutes after the national team beat Tunisia 2-0 to become the champion of Africa.

"I don't know what to say. I'm just so proud to be a South African," said a woman dancing in one of Soweto's unpaved roads within sight of the Soccer City Stadium where the match was played.

The victory, coming on top of last year's Rugby World Cup win which unified the nation behind a largely white team, could fuel the country's hopes of hosting the soccer World Cup in the year 2006.

"It's bigger than the rugby, it's bigger than anything I've ever been a part of. It's magic for the nation," said Mark Fish, one of the most popular players of the team known as 'The Boys'.

A crowd of 75,000 including President

Nelson Mandela, Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini, Deputy President F.W. de Klerk and Brazilian soccer legend Pele packed the stadium three hours before the kickoff in blazing Transvaal heat.

Mandela wore the No.9 shirt of captain Neil Tovey and in the crowd several spectators had variations of the message "Make Mandela Magic" painted on their bare chests.

While soccer has traditionally been a black sport in South Africa, hundreds of whites were in the crowd. Some of the blacks had painted their heads white and some of the whites had painted themselves brown.

Two South African Airways passenger jets and a formation of air force fighters trailing smoke in the colours of the South African flag fuelled the pre-match tension as they flew low over the stadium.

The cacophony of horns, whistles, singing and shouting wilted slightly as the second half opened without a score, but the stadium erupted when South Africa scored two goals in as many minutes by substitute Mark Williams 15 minutes before the final whistle and moments after he had come onto the field.

"The crowd was unbelievable — they're worth the two goals we scored," coach Clive Barker said afterwards. "I'll be afraid to play away from South Africa after this. We've been spoilt."

The crowd waited for Mandela to present the cup before heading out to what promised to be an all-night celebration.

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SOUTH AMERICA

— COMPILED BY MARIO ETCHEART —



LIBERTADORES CUP '96

Kicks off March 13

The 37th edition of the Libertadores Cup, the major South American championship at club level, will kick off on March 13 with 20 teams in the first qualifying phase, and the 1995 champions, Gremio of Brazil, making its entry in the second round.

The newcomers to the tournament are Espoli from Ecuador and Guabira from Bolivia, and the surprising element is that for the third consecutive year, the representatives of Paraguayan football will be Olimpia and Cerro Porteno.

Meanwhile, only four former champions will be involved in this year's tournament: five times winner Peñarol of Uruguay, Olimpia de Paraguay victorious in two editions, River Plate of Argentina, who won it in 1986, and the current title holders, Gremio of Brazil, who also won it in 1983. The first qualifying round will start on March 13, finishing on April 17, while the second phase kick off on May 1, the quarter finals on May 15, semi-finals on May 29, and the finals will be played on June 19 and 26.

The first phase qualifying groups are:

1. Olimpia and Cerro Porteno (Paraguay), Barcelona and Espoli (Ecuador).
2. Defensor Sporting and Peñarol (Uruguay), Sporting Cristal and Universitario de Deportes (Peru).
3. San Jose and Guabira (Bolivia), Junior of Barranquilla and America of Cali (Colombia).
4. Botafogo and Corinthians (Brazil), Universidad de Chile and Universidad Católica (Chile).
5. River Plate and San Lorenzo (Argentina), Caracas and Minerven (Venezuela).

The first three of each group will qualify for the second phase. Gremio will play the runner-up of Group 5.

CALENDAR FOR THE QUALIFYING ROUNDS

- GROUP 1 -

DATE	PLACE	LOCAL	VISITOR
13-03	Guayaquil	Barcelona	Espoli
13-03	Asuncion	Olimpia	Cerro Porteno
19-03	Quito	Espoli	Olimpia
22-03	Guayaquil	Barcelona	Olimpia
26-03	Quito	Espoli	Cerro Porteno
29-03	Guayaquil	Bracelona	Cerro Porteno
03-04	Quito	Espoli	Barcelona
03-04	Asuncion	Cerro Porteno	Olimpia
09-04	Asuncion	Cerro Porteno	Espoli
12-04	Asuncion	Olimpia	Espoli
16-04	Asuncion	Cerro Porteno	Barcelona
19-04	Asuncion	Olimpia	Barcelona

- GROUP 2 -

DATE	PLACE	LOCAL	VISITOR
13-03	Lima	Sporting Cristal	Universitario
18-03	Montevideo	Defensor Sporting	Penarol
23-03	Lima	Universitario	Penarol
26-03	Lima	Sporting Cristal	Penarol
30-03	Lima	Universitario	Defensor Sporting
02-04	Lima	Sporting Cristal	Defensor Sporting
07-04	Lima	Universitario	Sporting Cristal
07-04	Montevideo	Penarol	Defensor Sporting
12-04	Montevideo	Defensor Sporting	Universitario
13-04	Montevideo	Penarol	Sporting Cristal
16-04	Montevideo	Penarol	Universitario
17-04	Montevideo	Defensor Sporting	Sporting Cristal

- GROUP 3 -

DATE	PLACE	LOCAL	VISITOR
13-03	Barranquilla	Junior	America
13-03	Bolivia	San Jose	Guabira
19-03	Bolivia	Guabira	America
22-03	Bolivia	San Jose	America
26-03	Barranquilla	Junior	Guabira
29-03	Cali	America	Guabira
03-04	Cali	America	Junior
03-04	Bolivia	Guabira	San Jose
09-04	Bolivia	San Jose	Junior
12-04	Bolivia	Guabira	Junior
16-04	Barranquilla	Junior	San Jose
19-04	Cali	America	San Jose

- GROUP 4 -

DATE	PLACE	LOCAL	VISITOR
13-03	Sao Paulo	Corinthians	Botafogo
13-03	Santiago	Universidad de Chile	Uni. Católica
19-03	Santiago	Universidad Católica	Corinthians
22-03	Santiago	Universidad de Chile	Corinthians
26-03	Rio de Janeiro	Botafogo	Uni. Católica
29-03	Sao Paulo	Corinthians	Uni. Católica
03-04	Rio de Janeiro	Botafogo	Corinthians
03-04	Santiago	Universidad Católica	Uni. de Chile
09-04	Santiago	Universidad Católica	Botafogo
12-04	Santiago	Universidad de Chile	Botafogo
16-04	Sao Paulo	Corinthians	Uni. de Chile
19-04	Rio de Janeiro	Botafogo	Uni. Católica

- GROUP 5 -

DATE	PLACE	LOCAL	VISITOR
13-03	Puerto Ordaz	Minerven	Caracas
13-03	Buenos Aires	San Lorenzo	River Plate
18-03	Puerto Ordaz	Minerven	San Lorenzo
22-03	Caracas	Caracas	San Lorenzo
25-03	Puerto Ordaz	Minerven	River Plate
29-03	Caracas	Caracas	River Plate
03-04	Caracas	Caracas	Monerven
03-04	Buenos Aires	River Plate	San Lorenzo
09-04	Buenos Aires	San Lorenzo	Minerven
12-04	Buenos Aires	River Plate	Minerven
16-04	Buenos Aires	San Lorenzo	Caracas
19-04	Buenos Aires	River Plate	Caracas



The winners of 1995: Gremio celebrate with Roger and Alexandre leading the way.

Past Winners

YEAR	CHAMPION	RUNNER-UP
1960	PENAROL (Uruguay)	Olimpia (Paraguay)
1961	PENAROL (Uruguay)	Palmeiras (Brazil)
1962	SANTOS (Brazil)	Penarol (Uruguay)
1963	SANTOS (Brazil)	Boca Juniors (Argentina)
1964	INDEPENDIENTE (Argentina)	Nacional (Uruguay)
1965	INDEPENDIENTE (Argentina)	Penarol (Uruguay)
1966	PENAROL (Uruguay)	River Plate (Argentina)
1967	RACING CLUB (Argentina)	Nacional (Uruguay)
1968	ESTUDIANTES DE L.P. (Argentina)	Palmeiras (Brazil)
1969	ESTUDIANTES DE L.P. (Argentina)	Nacional (Uruguay)
1970	ESTUDIANTES DE L.P. (Argentina)	Penarol (Uruguay)
1971	NACIONAL (Uruguay)	Estudiantes de L.P. (Argentina)
1972	INDEPENDIENTE (Argentina)	Universitario (Peru)
1973	INDEPENDIENTE (Argentina)	Colo Colo (Chile)
1974	INDEPENDIENTE (Argentina)	San Pablo (Brazil)
1975	INDEPENDIENTE (Argentina)	Union Espanola (Chile)
1976	CRUZEIRO (Brazil)	River Plate (Argentina)
1977	BOCA JUNIORS (Argentina)	Cruzeiro (Brazil)
1978	BOCA JUNIORS (Argentina)	Deportivo Cali (Colombia)
1979	OLIMPIA (Paraguay)	Boca Juniors (Argentina)
1980	NACIONAL (Uruguay)	Internacional (Brazil)
1981	FLAMENGO (Brazil)	Cobreloa (Chile)
1982	PENAROL (Uruguay)	Cobreloa (Chile)
1983	GREMIO (Brazil)	Penarol (Uruguay)
1984	INDEPENDIENTE (Argentina)	Gremio (Brazil)
1985	ARGENTINOS JUNIORS (Argentina)	America (Colombia)
1986	RIVER PLATE (Argentina)	America (Colombia)
1987	PENAROL (Uruguay)	America (Colombia)
1988	NACIONAL (Uruguay)	Newell's Old Boys (Argentina)
1989	ATLETICO NACIONAL (Colombia)	Olimpia (Paraguay)
1990	OLIMPIA (Paraguay)	Barcelona (Ecuador)
1991	COLO COLO (Chile)	Olimpia (Paraguay)
1992	SAN PABLO (Brazil)	Newell's Old Boys (Argentina)
1993	SAN PABLO (Brazil)	Universidad Católica (Chile)
1994	VELEZ SARSFIELD (Argentina)	San Pablo (Brazil)
1995	GREMIO (Brazil)	Atletico Nacional (Colombia)

The Dutch Style

Sound advice for aspiring youngsters

BY GUEST COLUMNIST
GERRY VAN DUUREN

Hans Klippus a leading Dutch soccer writer was recently in Sydney. We discussed Holland's style of play and here is his summation.

Firstly we naturally explored Euro '96 and Hans has some interesting opinions.

He predicts that if Portugal gets their stuff together they could upset and reach the final playing Germany, Italy or England. The other team that impresses him and he thinks are the dark horses is Croatia.

He is not sure of Holland, as major injuries could upset their preparation. Mark Overmars is an important link as often Dutch teams (as well as club teams) play with two orthodox wingers.

This leads into item two about playing styles.

Since the Dutch play with three strikers they have one attacking midfielder called a "shadow striker" who works behind the front-line and scores often by playing a one-two with the target man.

Dennis Bergkamp plays in that role for Holland and Jari Litmanen for Ajax.

Variations of these come when these men are heavily

marked, then Edgar Davids and Ronald de Boer get involved (or Seedorff) in the attacking move, as was seen against Ireland.

From an objective Australian view you must admit that these 'one-twos' are missing in our competition.

Or, not used a lot and therefore diminishing goal chances.

This is what the Dutch call, scoring from the "second line".

The Ajax youth are brought up with numbers.

Their language does not include full-back, sweeper etc. You play number 4 or 10 (shadow striker), number 2 the (full-back) etc.

They play with three at the back whereby one has to be extremely fast (Michael Reiziger for instance) because most of the team is too busy attacking and he is often the last cover.

A creative left back (such as Frank de Boer) is where the attacks often start from, in this system.

AC Milan in the European Cup Final last year were aware of this this and the two front strikers of Milan marked Blind and de Boer so that the attacks started from Reiziger who is not a creative player.

The result was plain to see, Ajax had problems in



Frank de Boer: Creative left back for Holland.

that first half.

The third man at the back, the free man, often goes forward and the marking is left to one of the central midfielders.

Traditionally Dutch

football has one man in a team who has a great left foot.

He is skilful in terms of the long 40-50 metre pass.

Johan Cruyff stated that a man with a good left foot is

always something special — accuracy and finesse in passing.

Examples of these were Arnold Meuhren and currently Frank de Boer whose passes manage just to drop in front of the attacker so that the goalkeeper cannot get to them.

With a system of three men at the back it is important that the midfield four are highly mobile to help in attack and defence.

The ball generally moves quickly between all players — this is what Europeans call "ball circulation" — and often it is one touch football.

You would probably have noticed that these midfielders are comfortable on the ball and are capable of going past their direct opponent in order to draw defenders out to tackle him again.

Ruud Gullit is doing that now for Chelsea.

The last factor — "What it takes to play in Holland" — is also a tip for younger players with overseas ambitions.

Firstly you have to be skilful, having good ball control and tactical awareness, that is reading the game well.

You have to be exceptional, that is having star quality, such as Paul Okon, Graham Arnold and the Vidmar brothers.

It is not because all Dutch football is so good but it is because of protection of home grown players.

For a player to gain a visa he must earn 150% above the average Dutch player's yearly wage.

In terms of figures it translates to the average Dutch player's yearly wage about \$A160,000!

150% of that amount means earnings of over \$A200,000. A substantial figure.

So, it is fair to say that this will be your minimum wage at least.

And a club will have to offer that to gain a Dutch permit.

These figures are quoted from this January's "Voetbal international" magazine from Holland.

You can see that this almost means that it is impossible for a good Aussie player to get a permit in Holland unless there are loopholes in contractual terms that can bypass these rules.

Hans Klippus also mentioned that Dutch clubs were especially interested in defenders because as a kid no one wants to defend and natural defenders are not being "bred".

One good example is PSV's Arthur Numan who came here with the Olympic

squad as an attacking midfielder.

Due to the shortage of defenders he was, against his will, transformed by PSV and therefore Holland to a defensive left back.

So, boys don't be disheartened full-backs, defenders are just as important and can play key roles.

In conclusion it should be emphasised that with good ball skills, good shooting skills and good vision we may not have to tamper with the rules of football or have bigger goals. The game is tremendous as it is.

Games with lots of goals, remember the Oceania Olympic qualifiers (?), are not always the most exciting.

Sure, 0-0 may be considered drab but analysis of the game may reveal an exciting clash with lots of action and good football but the ball just didn't go in.

Lastly, Aussie youngsters should go beyond their training sessions and concentrate on personal skills in their backyard or where ever.

Remember soccer (football) is one of the only ball games you can play on your own without having any accessories such as basketball rings etc.

All you need is a round ball and your feet.

Gullit inspires Chelsea



Gavin Peacock: Hat-trick enabled Chelsea to climb to eighth.

Gavin Peacock scored three goals but it was Ruud Gullit who masterminded the victory as Chelsea outplayed Middlesbrough 5-0 last Sunday to jump two places to eighth in the English soccer standings.

Three goals in 10 minutes in the first half swept aside a Middlesbrough team still missing its Brazilian star Juninho, who has been sidelined for three weeks with a knee injury.

The first two of Peacock's goals in Chelsea's biggest league win for seven years had a little help from Gullit.

The Dutch star appeared to be standing in an offside position right in front of Middlesbrough goalkeeper Gary Walsh when Peacock shot goalwards in the 29th minute from the edge of a crowded penalty area. Although Gullit made no effort to play the ball, Walsh only saw it late and it crept inside the post.

Three minutes later, John

Spencer ran into a huge gap in the Middlesbrough defence to collect a pass from Romanian defender Dan Petrescu and was unchallenged as he fired the second.

And in the 39th minute, Gullit broke clear of the 'Boro defence on the right, drew Walsh off his line and squared the ball for Peacock to slide in and side-foot the ball into an empty net.

Eight minutes into the second period, Gullit was on target with a 50-yard pass from deep in his own half to Petrescu and the ball was quickly fed to Paul Furlong who fired the fourth from 15 yards.

Two minutes later it was 5-0 when Spencer floated a long pass over the 'Boro defence and Peacock got to the ball before advancing goalkeeper Walsh to prod home his third.

A minute from the end, Paul Wilkinson almost snatched a consolation goal for Middlesbrough but his 20 metre shot hit the post.



Ruud Gullit: Instrumental in defeat of Middlesbrough.

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Met up with a great old mate in England by the name of Dave "Davo" Arnison who produces not only the Carlisle Utd fanzine "Olga the Fox" but also a new national fanzine entitled "A View From The Terraces".

Met up with Davo at the roundabout as you leave the motorway and enter the darkest recesses of Penrith (Cumbria UK), straight back to his parents place for a cuppa and the near two hour torture of watching Carlisle's championship video of last term — in which he appears naturally.

How much can any one human stand? I was asking

myself out loud but the hint didn't seem to be sinking in (or was totally ignored to be more precise!) when it was suggested we retire to the car for a tour of Penrith, (a place I'd not visited for many years. It is situated in the middle of the Lake District and for mine, the most spectacular and beautiful region of England without a shadow of a doubt) and the local Curry House!

What followed was a damn fine curry and a couple of pints of Thakston's new offering "The Black Sheep" which is sadly to replace the famous "Old Peculiar", whilst talking about all things football. Unbeknown to me, Davo had arranged a visit to

the ground and to BBC Radio North for an interview with Nick Barnes for the following day.

Next morning, after being offered several breakfast's by Davo's mum (his parents are really quite outstanding, wonderful people to meet and a very quick thanks for your hospitality...champion) before being whisked away to the ground.

Here we met up with Chairman Michael Knighton (who cringed visibly at the mention of Mrs Jones boy) and manager Mick Wadsworth, whom I didn't recognise at first as he was smiling (Private joke but watch the fortune of Davo and his bloody video!).

Mick is a really nice guy but anyone with a name like that would be, and an all too brief few minutes came to an end, it was time for photo's outside for the programme (still not received a copy unfortunately).

However, at this time, there was no hint of what was to follow a few weeks later when Mr Wadsworth and Carlisle United parted company on January 21st

after claims he wasn't receiving the backing from Mr Knighton that he should be getting. Also after an approach from Gary Megson (Manager of Norwich City) he joined them the following day.

This news was exclusively revealed to the players by none other than Dave Arnison after an away match at Bristol Rovers. Until this point, none of them had any idea of Mr Wadsworth's decision. Radio Cumbria presenter Nick Barnes said he was "shocked, but not entirely surprised by his decision".

Border Television's Graham Moss added: "I'm disappointed because I thought that Mick was the man to help United in the Second Division, but I'm not surprised because the pressure has been building up over the last few weeks." BBC North did try to interview Mr Knighton but he declined to comment.

This came hot on the heels of news that the Chairman plans to sell the club to the fans for \$14 per week over the next five years which would give the supporters a majority 51% controlling interest in the club.

Interesting?!

Don't forget to order your "shoulder flags" at \$29.50 each and "Car Window Flags" at \$26 each, nearly all UK European and world teams plus international flags too.

Also, enter our Mark Hughes "Limited Edition" T-shirt competition. Simply answer these questions: 1/ Which Spanish club did Manchester United sell him to? 2/ Which German side did they loan him to the following season? 3/ Who does he play for now? This T-shirt is made by UMBRO and is much sought after these days!

Answers to: Sparky Comp, PO Box 56, Kingsway West, NSW 2208. Winner will be drawn on February 10 so get a move on or miss out.

Next week, that elusive interview with Nick Barnes at BBC Radio North plus a photo of the lad (Censorship allowing?) and quick update on the "Pundits Poll".

Four lads, including Colin Turner and Kimon Taliadoris were neck and neck out in front but are they still there?

All this and perhaps a Geoff Hurst interview but until then as ever, be lucky.

Unlikely meeting place brings culinary delight

Some things are meant to be! Hitting the desk this very morning, is the following account of one man's favourite non-league football team, inspired he says, after reading about my beloved Banbury United a couple of weeks ago.

So why are some things meant to be? Yesterday saw the latest edition of the Wealdstone fanzine *The Elmslie Ender* hit the desk too! Somebody is trying to tell me something.

The *Elmslie Ender* is quite magnificent amongst non-league fanzines and comes in A4 format whilst most others have opted for A5.

Photo reproduction is superb, text is intelligent, clear and plenty of it. Editors Martin Lacey and Sudhir Rawal do an excellent job in getting the 'zine out and full praise must go to them. *TEE* is available from: 37 Grange Road, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex HA102PR and is priced at a mere £1.20p an issue which represents unbelievable value.

Don't knock 'til you've tried it and here's hoping you enjoy Henry's eye-view of that magnificent "double year"...

THE FIRST TEAM TO WIN THE NON-LEAGUE 'DOUBLE'!

BY HENRY WIZGIER

Ten years ago, Wealdstone Football Club were the name on everyone's lips in the thriving world of English non-league football.

Had their tiny dilapidated ground been up to scratch, they may well have been playing in the Endsleigh Second Division today along with old rivals Wycombe Wanderers and who knows — they may even have been living in the same exalted company as another former rival, Wimbledon.

Yet, neither of these two former non-league giants managed to achieve what Wealdstone did namely, win the great 'double' of the non-league pyramid, the Vauxhall Conference and FA Trophy, in the same season.

How fortune smiles on some and rains down on others! While their aforementioned former opponents now bask in the sunshine of England's booming football leagues, poor old Wealdstone languish way down at the base of the pyramid which they once conquered in the most spectacular fashion and from which they should have climbed up onto the great professional plateau.

Make no mistake, this is as sad a story as any in recent English football-lore.

Founded in 1900, Wealdstone Football Club hail from the north-west London borough (Australian municipality) of Harrow and were always a top amateur club in the days when non-league footballers were not supposed to receive any payments officially, but regularly found bulging envelopes inside their jackets or shoes in the changing rooms.

Then, when English football decided to 'come-clean' and get rid of that word 'amateur', the Stones became one of the founder members of the Alliance League, now better known as The Vauxhall Conference League.

They had no success until that memorable, and soon to be historic, season of 1984-85.

Almost from the beginning they headed the table but, owing to a combination of bad weather and cup-commitments, with just six weeks of the season remaining they found themselves back in 8th place and 7 points adrift of the leaders. (Only 2-points for a win then).

However, they did have games in hand and the way they made up ground was quite

spectacular. It began on the Saturday of 23rd March 1985 when the Stones beat Weymouth 3-2 at home.

Two days later on Monday, they bussed it up the M6 to Manchester and beat Altrincham 2-1.

They stayed up north in a hotel as their next game was just another two days away again, on Wednesday in Gateshead. Third match in five days and third win, 2-1!

Now, the Stones had a whole three days in which to get back to Harrow and prepare for the visit of Runcorn which was their fourth game in exactly one week. It became their fourth win too, 1-0.

The following day on Sunday 31st March, Wealdstone recorded their fifth win on the trot in just eight days — as Scarborough were beaten 1-0.

If somebody can tell me of a better record than that at a high level of football, I would be interested to hear about it.

With the Gola League (previous name for the Vauxhall Conference) now safely under their belt, the Stones then had to make the short hop down the road to Wembley Stadium to wrap up the second leg of that elusive non-league double, the FA Trophy.

Gallant Boston United could not halt the unstoppable Stones who won 2-1 in front of over 20,000. (Incidentally, sitting on the 'Stones' subs-bench that day was a promising and likeable young 20 year old by the name of Vinnie Jones. (Where did it all go wrong Vinnie?)

What should have been the beginning of a glorious new chapter for Wealdstone FC, became the first page of a catalogue of disasters.

I left England for Australia soon afterwards but I have gathered since that the fact that Lower Mead Stadium stood on the very edge of the expanding Harrow shopping centre — didn't help. Especially as their Chairman happened to be a — property developer!

When I visited the Old Dart a few years ago I stood where the old goalmouth would have been at the Elmslie End of the ground — to reach for a packet of sausages.

At least they were my favourite brand — TESCO!

FOOTNOTE: Wealdstone FC are currently languishing in the ISIS League — Division 3.



David Reeves: In action for Carlisle United last season.
Fans will be able to buy shares in this club for \$14 a week.

Devotion to Oz could cost Craig Moore dearly

BY PAUL MILLAR
OF AAP

When Craig Moore goes for a day at the office there are 45,000 critics on hand to analyse his every move and offer their opinion.

Vocal, passionate, witty and at times cruel, the soccer fans of Glasgow Rangers know their football and their young Australian defender says playing at Ibrox Stadium can be intimidating.

The lone Australian Ranger has shed his early fear and is a regular in a multi-million dollar line-up that includes Danish star Brian Laudrup and English clown prince Paul Gascoigne, who arrived this season from Italian club Lazio.

Moore said at times his side appeared to perform better in its away fixtures because the pressure was not as intense, even though the club has at least a 10,000-strong travelling support.

"Even there (in away games) they make plenty of noise as they want to make the other supporters know, 'We're here,'" he said.

The 20-year-old has been rock-solid at the back of the untested Australian Olympic side's romp through the Oceania qualifiers in Adelaide this month. But he could pay dearly for his decision to represent his country in the middle of a cut-throat Scottish season in which old-time rivals Celtic are breathing down the league leaders neck.

Rangers are in sight of Celtic's record nine league championships in a row and with seven consecutive titles under their belt, the Rangers faithful are desperate for three more titles to end constant taunts from the



Parkhead army.

"Hello, Hello, nine in a row," the Celtic diehards have chanted since their record breaking run in the mid-1960s.

Basking in the Adelaide sunshine with the memory of a bitter Scottish winter to go back to, Moore knows he has plenty of work ahead of him if he is to add a championship medal to his already bulging trophy cabinet.

"It'll be really hard for me to get straight back in the side," he said.

"There would have to be some suspensions or injuries, but you just have to put in that bit harder at training."

Moore's move to Scotland was a Boys Own tale. One day he was a hopeful at the Australian Institute of Sport and then he got the call that every teenager dreams about.

"I was playing in the World Youth Cup in Australia in 1993 and after that I got a call from manager Walter Smith, it was great," Moore said.

The raw Sydneysider arrived in Scotland's capital of football as a wary hopeful but with a kitbag full of ambition.

His first problem was coping with the thick as brot accent that the locals barked.

"At the beginning it was a case of ask again or pardon," he said.

But he's over that



Craig Moore: Says Gazza's great with younger players at Rangers.

problem now and even talks with the tainted version of a Glaswegian.

As with all the players at Ibrox, the defender knows he will have to be content playing in the shadow of Laudrup and Gascoigne and he's happy to just learn as much as he can from them.

Like the Rangers and England fans he is amazed at the repertoire of tricks that Gascoigne can produce, but he said the Geordie works harder than anybody to stay at the top.

"He trains really hard, he's a joker alright, but he gets on with all the boys.

"Gazza would do anything to help you out and he's great with the younger players. He's always there if you need him."

When Gascoigne joined Rangers at the start of the season he was under the microscope from the start.

"He was under pressure to do something special every week and the press were never off his back and then he had five or six weeks where he was brilliant and they eased off," Moore said.

"But it was different with the Rangers fans they took to him straight away."

Although Moore did not reveal details about what he is being paid by one of the richest clubs in Britain he said some of the stars were on more than \$A30,000 a week.

He was offered a five year contract by the Gers last year, but thought that was too long, even though he is committed to the club.

"This is a key year for me as it's the last year of my three year contract," he said.

During the Oceania qualifiers he has played to sparse crowds in blazing sunshine against players from countries where his weekly wage would be more than their annual salary.

The pressure was off during these games, he toyed with the opposition from the Solomon Islands, Fiji and Vanuatu and revelled in the time he was allowed to dwell on the ball.

But he can't wait to get back to the cut and thrust of Scottish premiership football where lesser sides charge at Rangers in the vain hope that they can cause an upset.

"They throw everything at us and we try to soak it up, they don't come to Ibrox and sit back and hope for a draw anymore, they all want to beat us," he said.

Moore loves the passion surrounding Rangers and playing in front of a sold-out stadium every other week, but he puts things into perspective.

"It's my job I'm there nearly every single day, but it's great because they are great they are a massive club, absolutely massive," he said.



Paul Gascoigne: "A joker alright, but he gets on with all the boys".

Premier League Team

PROFILES ARSENAL

BY STUART JONES

In a new series of articles I'll be looking at some of the playing staff of each Premier League club. Hopefully by the end you'll have a collection of facts about your favourite club that you can use for trivia and quiz nights, and just for general interest. We start with Arsenal. All Stats to end of season 1994/95.

David Seaman (G) — Born Rotherham 1963. First club Leeds before moving to Peterborough where he made his league debut. Then on to Birmingham before going to QPR. He made 141 appearances for QPR before moving across London to Arsenal. 189 outings for the Gunners. 17 appearances for England up to August 1995.

Lee Dixon (D) — Born Manchester 1964. Started league career at Burnley. Other clubs Chester then Bury then Stoke. 254 league appearances for Arsenal, 16 goals to end of 1994/95 season. 21 appearances for England.

Steve Bould (D) — Born Stoke 1962. Played at Stoke, although he did go on loan to Torquay for nine games. Moved to Arsenal where he has appeared in the league for them 192 times, 5 goals. 2 England appearances.

Tony Adams (D capt) — Born London 1966. Has made 346 league appearances for his only club, Arsenal, and scored 23 times. 35 caps for England.

Nigel Winterburn (D) — Born Coventry 1963. On the books of Birmingham and Oxford before making his league debut as a Wimbledon player. Moved to Arsenal after 165 appearances and has played in the league 272 (5 goals) times for the Gunners. Played twice for England.

Andy Linighan (D) — Born Hartlepool 1962. Started at Hartlepool before playing for Leeds, Oldham, and Norwich. Now plays at Highbury.

Martin Keown (M/D) — Born Oxford 1966. Started at Arsenal going on loan to Brighton twice. Moved to Aston Villa and Everton before returning to Highbury. Over 100 league games for Arsenal and 11 for England.

Ray Parlour (M) — Born Romford 1973. Trainee at Arsenal before making his way into first team.

John Jensen (M) — Born in Denmark 1965. He moved from Brondby to Arsenal. Danish international.

David Platt (M) — Born Chadderton 1966. Started on books of Manchester United but his first league appearance came with Crewe. Went to Aston Villa before his Italian adventures with Bari, Juventus and Sampdoria. Returned to England in off season to Arsenal. 55 appearances for England.

Glenn Helder (M) — Born Leiden 1968. Dutch international who started at Sparta before moving to Vitesse finally moving to Arsenal as George Graham's last signing for the club.

Paul Merson (M) — Born London 1968. Played his entire career at Arsenal with one brief loan spell at Brentford. 257 (67 goals) appearances in the league. 14 England outings.

Dennis Bergkamp (M/F) — Born Amsterdam 1969. Played for Ajax and Inter Milan before joining Arsenal this season. Dutch international.

John Hartson (F) — Born Swansea 1975. Trainee at Luton where he played 54 games for (11 goals). Played 15 times for the Arsenal with 7 goals forthcoming. Three games for Wales.

Ian Wright (F) — Born Woolwich 1963. Was playing for Greenwich Borough when Crystal Palace came in for him. Appeared 225 league games for them scoring 89 goals. Moved to Arsenal and has played 130 League games with 80 goals (over 100 goals for the Gunners in all games). England representative on 20 occasions.

So Arsenal have a team of international players but are a fairly old team. Their manager is Bruce Rioch who played for Scotland 24 times.



RAY PARLOUR



TONY ADAMS

'6 FROM 38 POOLS'

THIS WEEK'S MATCH LIST

WEEK 550

SAT. 10th FEBRUARY, 1996

MAN. UTD	BLACKBURN	1
* SHEFFIELD WED.	WIMBLETON	2
BIRMINGHAM	HUDDERSFIELD	3
CRYSTAL P.	SHEFFIELD UTD	4
DERBY	WOLVES	5
LUTON	GRIMSBY	6
MILLWALL	READING	7
OLDHAM	NORWICH	8
PORTSMOUTH	LEICESTER	9
STOKE	IPSWICH	10
SUNDERLAND	PORT VALE	11
TRANMERE	BARNESLEY	12
WATFORD	CHARLTON	13
WEST BROM.	SOUTHEND	14
BRADFORD C.	STOCKPORT	15
BRISTOL C.	BOURNEMOUTH	16
BURNLEY	CREWE	17
CARLISLE	BRENTFORD	18
HULL	BRISTOL R.	19
OXFORD UTD	BRIGHTON	20
PETERBORO	SHREWSBURY	21
SWANSEA	SWINDON	22
WALSALL	NOTTS COUNTY	23
WREXHAM	CHESTERFIELD	24
WYCOMBE	BLACKPOOL	25
YORK	ROTHERHAM	26
CHESTER	CAMBRIDGE U.	27
COLCHESTER	WIGAN A.	28
DONCASTER	BURY	29
EXETER	MANSFIELD	30
FULHAM	HARTLEPOOL	31
GILLINGHAM	TORQUAY	32
HEREFORD	LINCOLN	33
LEYTON O.	CARDIFF	34
NORTHAMPTON	DARLINGTON	35
PRESTON	BARNET	36
ROCHDALE	SCARBORO	37
SCUNTHORPE	PLYMOUTH	38

RESERVE MATCHES

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION	FALKIRK	CELTIC	39
HEARTS	ABERDEEN	40	
PARTICK	KILMARNOCK	41	
RAITH	HIBERNIAN	42	
RANGERS	MOTHERWELL	43	
AIRDRIE	DUNFERMLINE	44	
CLYDEBANK	ST MIRREN	45	
DUMBARTON	HAMILTON	46	
DUNDEE U.	G'N'C MORTON	47	
ST JOHNSTONE	DUNDEE	48	
BERWICK	STENH'MUIR	49	
FORFAR	Q. OF SOUTH	50	
MONTROSE	CLYDE	51	
STIRLING A.	AYR	52	
STRANRAER	EAST FIFE	53	
ARBROATH	CAL. THISTLE	54	
COWDENBEATH	BRECHIN	55	

* ENGLISH PREMIER DIVISION

SCORE DRAWS ARE CALCULATED FROM GAME 38 BACKWARD

GET YOUR POOLS IN

Don't forget
Pools Quick Pick

MATCH RESULTS

WEEK 549

SAT. 3RD FEBRUARY, 1996

ENGLISH PREMIER DIVISION	ARSENAL	COVENTRY	1	1-1
ASTON VILLA	LEEDS	2	3-0	
BLACKBURN	BOLTON	3	3-1	
LIVERPOOL	TOTTENHAM	4	0-0	
MAN. CITY	QPR	5	2-0	
NEWCASTLE	SHEFFIELD WED.	6	2-0	
SOUTHAMPTON	EVERTON	7	2-2	
WEST HAM	NOTTINGHAM F.	8	1-0	
WIMBLETON	MAN. UTD	9	2-4	
BARNESLEY	WATFORD	10	2-1	
GRIMSBY	DERBY	11	1-1	
HUDDERSFIELD	TRANMERE	12	1-0	
IPSWICH	WEST BROM.	13	2-1	
LEICESTER	LUTON	14	1-1	
SHEFFIELD UTD	OLDHAM	15	2-1	
SOUTHEND	MILLWALL	16	2-0	
WOLVES	SUNDERLAND	17	3-0	
BLACKPOOL	HULL	18	1-1	
BOURNEMOUTH	WYCOMBE	19	2-3	
BRENTFORD	BURNLEY	20	1-0	
BRIGHTON	WREXHAM	21	2-2	
BRISTOL R.	WALSALL	22	2-0	
CHESTERFIELD	SWANSEA	23	3-2	
CREWE	YORK	24	PP	
NOTTS COUNTY	PETERBORO	25	1-0	
ROTHERHAM	OXFORD UTD	26	1-0	
SHREWSBURY	BRADFORD C.	27	1-1	
STOCKPORT	BRISTOL C.	28	PP	
SWINDON	CARLISLE	29	2-1	
BARNET	SCUNTHORPE	30	1-0	
BURY	HEREFORD	31	PP	
CAMBRIDGE U.	GILLINGHAM	32	0-0	
CARDIFF	DONCASTER	33	3-2	
DARLINGTON	LEYTON O.	34	2-0	
HARTLEPOOL	ROCHDALE	35	1-1	
LINCOLN	COLCHESTER	36	0-0	
MANSFIELD	NORTHAMPTON	37	0-0	
PLYMOUTH	CHESTER	38	4-2	

RESULTS AND DIVIDEND HOTLINES

Phone: 0055 33111 Australia, Wide. Or, Sydney
0055 29043; Melbourne (03) 11521; Brisbane (07)
11699; Adelaide (08) 11521; Perth (09) 11520.

Results are available from 8pm.
Sundays, dividends after 5pm Mondays.

THE POOLS RESULTS HISTORY AT 3/2/96 WEEK 549

NO. OF TIMES EACH NUMBER OCCURED	NO. OF WEEKS NUMBER OCCURED
163	263
11105	12109
21110	22110
31119	32107
263	33264
34131	35131
36129	37115
38111	
115	23
110	1213
210	2216
314	326
335	342
350	361
3711	3814
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Win, win for Duncan

Everton's Scottish international striker Duncan Ferguson won his legal battle last Thursday to overturn a ban for head-butting another player.

Ferguson was suspended for 12 matches by the SFA for a head-butting incident involving Raith defender John McStay in April 1994 when he was playing for Rangers.

He was also sentenced to three months in prison for assault and spent 44 days in jail.

His lawyers had claimed that the SFA disciplinary committee acted beyond its powers by imposing the ban for an offence which was only acted on after a report by the match supervisor.

Lord Macfadayan confirmed in a written judgement that his appeal to have the ban overturned at a judicial review at the Edinburgh Court of Sessions on January 19 had been successful.

Man. United fined for poaching

Manchester United was last week fined \$A41,100 by the English Football Association after being found guilty of "poaching" a schoolboy player for the second time in quick succession.

United, which escaped punishment when it was found guilty of an illegal approach to Arsenal's Matthew Wicks, was not so fortunate over David Brown, a 17-year-old Oldham player.

United must also pay the costs of the FA hearing and agree compensation with Oldham for the loss of Brown, whose signature could eventually cost the Old Trafford club as much as \$A205,400.

Earlier last month no action was taken against United over Wicks — son of former Chelsea defender Steve — when the youngster decided to return to Arsenal.

Last year Premier League chief Rick Parry promised action on schoolboy "poaching".

Despite Duncan Ferguson's recent spell in prison and his bad-boy reputation, Scotland manager Craig Brown still wants him to lead his team's attack in this summer's European Championships.

Brown's message for Ferguson last week was: "Keep your nose clean and you are set for Euro 96."

The former Rangers star has been tagged with the nickname "Duncan Disorderly" because of his wildman image.

Ferguson, who served a prison term when police charged him over an on field head-butting incident, has recently made his Everton comeback with four goals in five games.

Brown dropped the broadest hint yet that he wants him to lead the attack against England, Holland and Switzerland in June.

Brown said: "If Duncan maintains his good form and keeps behaving himself he is very definitely in my thoughts."



Duncan Ferguson: Certainly for Scotland and 12-match ban overturned.

"I don't care who players play for or where they come from. It will be purely a footballing decision when I select the squad.

"There has obviously been

a question mark over Duncan's temperament but there is no question about his ability.

"He has a reputation but also commands a great deal of respect for his ability. I would say I already have 16 players as the nucleus of our squad but at present there are around 10 others challenging for the remaining places — and Ferguson is one of them."

Ferguson played in only one of Scotland's 10 Euro 96 qualifiers — the only one it lost in a 1-0 defeat in Greece.

"That was not his fault, but we have shown since we can survive without him," said Brown. "His presence in the team is not essential but, in top form, it is desirable."

Ferguson may get his next chance to impress Brown in a warm-up friendly against Australia on March 27.

Although the opposition is not yet confirmed, the Aussies look likely to win the vote ahead of other possible opponents France or Portugal.

Cocain user banned for year

Leyton Orient player Roger Stanislaus (right) was banned from soccer for a year by an English Football Association disciplinary committee last Thursday after being found guilty of taking cocaine as a performance-enhancing drug.

His suspension is the longest handed out by the FA since three players were banned for life in 1965 for taking bribes. The FA also had the power to ban Stanislaus for life.

The 27-year-old defender, who told the hearing he had taken the drug as a social stimulant only, was tested positive by the FA's mobile drug testing unit after playing for division three Leyton Orient in a 3-0 loss to Barnet in November.

The committee heard medical evidence which suggested Stanislaus, who was suspended by the club after the result of the test was known, could have used the drug as late as the



morning of the game.

Dr David Cowans, director of the Drugs Control Centre at Kings College, Chelsea and an advisor to the International Olympic Committee, also confirmed that cocaine is regarded as a boost to sporting prowess.

Leyton Orient chairman Barry Hearn said the directors will discuss Stanislaus's future with the club at a board meeting on Tuesday.

Hammers sign 'party boy'

Struggling Premiership side West Ham landed one of the most exciting prospects in European soccer by signing Portuguese international forward Dani Carvalho on loan for the rest of the season last week.

The 19-year-old Sporting Lisbon prodigy went straight into manager Harry Redknapp's squad for the visit of Nottingham Forest last Saturday.

Carvalho, known simply as "Dani" watched West Ham squeeze to a 3-2 win over Coventry last Wednesday after a thrilling second half before walking into the West Ham dressing room to congratulate his future colleagues.

Redknapp said: "This guy is so good-looking that all the other lads have said they will stop their wives coming along in future."

"He looks like a film star but can also play a bit. He scored twice to knock England out of an Under-21 tournament and came on as substitute against them in a full international at Wembley. He will certainly be involved against Forest."

Dani, had fallen out with Sporting's management after gaining a "bad boy" reputation for partying. But he is a regular in the national side and his talent is beyond doubt.

Champagne Charlie strikes for Clyde

Former Celtic and Arsenal striker Charlie Nicholas scored the opening goal as Clyde beat first division Dundee 3-1 last Wednesday to earn a fourth round Scottish Cup soccer clash with Rangers.

Nicholas, now 34 and once known as "Champagne Charlie" for his glamorous lifestyle in the 1980s when he earned 20 caps for Scotland, was the toast of the home fans with a stunning seventh minute strike.

He curled a free-kick high into the net.

Tommy Harrison and Eddie Annand were second division Clyde's other marksmen.

Hearts, looking to win the Cup for the first time since 1956, beat fellow premier division side Partick 1-0 with Paul Ritchie scoring his first goal for the club after 63 minutes.

Hearts travel to Kilmarnock in the next round.

Newcastle's Asprilla signing held up

Sir John Hall, chairman of English Premier League club Newcastle, said last Thursday the club had not abandoned its \$A13.59 million transfer bid for Colombian World Cup star Faustino Asprilla.

Apart from a 47-word statement last Friday week, Newcastle has said nothing since it became apparent they wanted Asprilla.

But, in a statement, Sir John said: "The board are handling negotiations as they always do when they get to this stage. There are still a number of matters to be resolved to our satisfaction."

One of the matters still to be resolved is the method of the first payment, with Parma demanding an initial \$A6.05 million.

Last week it was claimed Newcastle was unhappy that Asprilla, 26, still had seven months to run of a suspended prison sentence after committing a firearms offence a year ago.

He underwent a medical at St James' Park and stories have also surfaced that Newcastle has been alerted to a long-term knee problem, although Parma spokesman Giorgio Gandolfi refuted the claim.

Spink leaves Villa for WBA



Goalkeeper Nigel Spink, capped once by England in 1983, ended a 19-year association with Aston Villa last Wednesday when he joined first division West Bromwich on a free transfer.

The 37-year-old Spink signed a two-and-a-half year contract and was expected to make his debut at Ipswich last Saturday.

Spink played in Villa's 1982 European Cup Final victory over Bayern Munich after coming off the substitutes' bench to replace the injured Jimmy Rimmer.

He made 460 appearances for Villa, but in recent times has had to play second fiddle to Australian star Mark Bosnich.

ROBSON FINED FOR OUTBURST

Former England captain Bryan Robson, manager of English Premier League club Middlesbrough, has been fined \$A1,540 for an outburst after a match in December, the English Football Association (FA) said.

Robson, the favourite to become the next England national coach, was found guilty of bringing the game into disrepute and warned about his future conduct.

Middlesbrough players Neil Cox and Nigel Pearson were fined \$A1,027 each.

All three were charged with making foul and abusive remarks to referee Paul Danson after Middlesbrough's 1-0 defeat at Blackburn on December 16.

They declined personal hearings and instead wrote letters of explanation to the FA.

It was 39-year-old Robson's first disrepute punishment in a long and distinguished career with West Bromwich Albion, Manchester United and Middlesbrough.

It is not expected to prevent the FA from considering Robson as a candidate for the post of national coach when Terry Venables quits after next June's European championship finals.

BRITISH SOCCER

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ERICSSON CUP MATCHES THIS WEEK

ROUND 19



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

SYDNEY UNITED

v **UTS OLYMPIC**

SYD. CROATIAN SPORT CENTRE - 7:00PM



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

CANBERRA COSMOS

v

BRISBANE STRIKERS

BRUCE STADIUM - 7:00PM



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

WEST ADELAIDE

v

WOLLONGONG CITY

HINDMARSH STADIUM - 7:30PM



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

SOUTH MELBOURNE

v

MARCONI FAIRFIELD

Bob Jane Stadium - 7:00PM



ROUND 19 POSTPONED MATCHES

ADELAIDE CITY

v

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS

MORWELL FALCONS

v

MELB. KNIGHTS



ROUND 21

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

ADELAIDE CITY

v

MORWELL FALCONS

HINDMARSH STADIUM - 7:30PM



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